

Stories from the Small Churches  
of the  
Wesleyan District  
The West Virginia Conference  
of  
The United Methodist Church

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## **Beall's Mill United Methodist Church History**

By Hartzel Waugh

The congregation of the Beall's Mill United Methodist Church located on the Copley Road about 18 miles from Weston celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1994.

The celebration began at 9 a.m. with preaching services followed by Sunday school at 10 a.m. The Roger Foster Family did the singing. The pastor at that time was Rev. Carl Mouser.

The church was established in December 1894, R. B. Shouldis and his wife conveyed the property on which the church set at that time to M. J. Turner, Henry Montgomery, R. B. Shouldis and W. M. Smith trustees, and their successors, for the purpose of using the property for the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The oldest living member of the church at that time was Mrs. Pearl Hinkle. The main leaders were Mrs. Hanna Montgomery, Mrs. Luvena Westfall, Mrs. Josephine Arbogast, and Mr. and Mrs. Mary and Bert Shouldis.

Sunday School was reorganized Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1941, at that time Sunday School started at 10 a.m. except on the second Sunday when it started at 1:30 p.m. followed by preaching at 2:30 p.m. Services were held on the fourth Friday of every month at 8 p.m. A total of 43 students were present and the total collection was fifty-nine cents.

In October 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Bun Dean conveyed unto Ora Wilt, W. F. Moneypenny, and Manual Burkhammer the property on which the church now sits.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1949, work began to move the church across the road when several people in the community worked until the church was finished on the first day of June, 1949.

Money in the treasure and from church socials totals \$130.00. Several cash donations from ten cents given by Gilbert Messenger to \$100.00 given by George Burkhammer, totaled \$935.39. Material was donated by Butcher-Layfield, Thurman Boilon, Rev. Arvel Veith and Bun Dean. The church bell was donated by Mrs. Oren Wilt. Free labor totaled 91 days. Those paid for working were Alan Markley, C. M. Messenger and John Rogers at a cost of \$299.25. New material bought totaled \$516.36 Total expenses including the writing of the deed totaled \$910.69. The church was completely paid for by the time it was dedicated, September 31<sup>st</sup>, 1949 by Rev. Arvel Veith.

Willie Moneypenny opened his home for church services while the church was being completed.

The first wedding in the church after being moved across the road was Mr. & Mrs. Leon Riddle on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1951.

A new roof, gutter and new carpet up the aisle and around the pulpit have been added. A basement and two new class rooms were added using money that was bequested from the Roanoke Church.

In 1993, the church basement and outside were painted, and new outside privies were built.

The church has hardwood floors and wooden benches in the main sanctuary.

## **History of the Bendale United Methodist Church**

By Harriett Attanasio

The original Bendale Church was a one room church, built and dedicated in 1892, after having been deeded a parcel of ground from Mr. John W. Connell on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1888. The Ladies Aid was organized soon after the church was built, and a few years later the Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized. The congregation kept growing, and in 1954, after a five week revival, where there were 87 conversions, it was apparent that a larger church was needed, so plans to build began, and a campaign was started to raise \$20,000 in four days.

The goal was met, and in October, 1955, one and one-half acres was purchased, and in November 1955, ground was broken for a new church on what was known as the old fairgrounds in Bendale, not far from the site of the old church. The church was built in the shape of the cross, and consisted of a sanctuary, educational room, and a Sunday school room. All of the work, except for the block laying, was done by members and friends, who volunteered their time and services.

An Easter Sunrise Service was held at the site in 1956, and on November 18, 1956, the doors of the new church were opened for worship.

A few years later, three new classrooms and a small kitchen were added and a parsonage was built on a lot in the back of the church.

Since then, new pews were added to the church, and later padded, three additional classrooms and two bathrooms were added, the Sanctuary was paneled, the kitchen was updated and made larger, and in 1994, vinyl siding was put on and new windows were installed. In 1996, a new heating and cooling system was installed, and in 2002 a pavilion was constructed on the premises.

Our church bell came from the Round Bottom United Methodist Church, one pulpit, two pulpit chairs and a picture of Christ, which hangs in the front of the church was donated from the Roanoke United Methodist Church. Another pulpit was donated from the Brownsville United Methodist Church. These churches were all formerly on the Weston Charge and are now covered by the Stonewall Jackson Lake.

In 2006 Clark's Chapel Church, which was also on the Weston Charge, found it necessary to close their church, and an organ, among other donations, were given to our church. We also, with great gratitude, but also with heartfelt sympathy for them, increased in number when all of these churches had to close, as some of their members joined our congregation.

Our church has had many fund raisers, including yard sales, bean dinners, baked steak dinners, Easter candy making, and apple butter making, to accomplish the renovations and additions done over the years.

We currently have a Women's Society, Youth Group, Weekly Bible Study, and an annual Bible School program. There are also members of our congregation who volunteer their services at our local church-based "Our Neighbor", and our church collects items monthly to donate to their cause.

Often, luncheons are held at our church on Sunday after worship services, with a lot of good food and fellowship, and bereavement dinners and luncheons are prepared when death comes to our church families.

Our main purpose and goal is to worship and praise our God and to try and reach out to others who do not have the privilege of knowing this God we serve, to teach and instruct those who wish to learn, and to help those who are in need.

## **BIG ISAAC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The Big Isaac United Methodist Church was founded in 1865 with the Rev. Adam Rider, a circuit rider, holding the first services in a log cabin located only a short distance from where the present church now stands. The old cabin was torn down in the early 1930s, after having served as a church, schoolhouse, residence and, finally as a barn.

In January 1872 a small tract of land was purchased from Thomas and Rebecca Slussar and a frame church was built on the present site. The first pastor was Spencer King. The trustees of this church were: E. D. Westfall, J. McConkey, Thomas Slussar, G. W. Evans, William Mowery, G. B. Bailey, C. L. Bell, J. L. Cowman and Stephen Bennett. The descendants of these church founders have continued to worship in this church down through the years. Spencer King was the first pastor and the church was a part of the Wilsonburg Charge.

The church built in 1872 was destroyed by a tornado on May 2, 1948. The present church was built in 1949 at a cost of \$10,000.00 and dedicated on June 17, 1949. Dr. W. S. Patterson, Superintendent of the Buckhannon District, preached the dedicatory sermon. The Rev. F. A. Sampson was the pastor and the trustees were: Ben Heflin, Clyde Day and Lawrence K. Bond. Some of the prominent families that were both active and members over a number of years were: Slussars, Mowreys and Bennetts. The Bennett family has through the years maintained an active resident membership. Today, we have members of the fifth and sixth generations in attendance. In 1975 a parsonage was built on a lot willed to the church by Destie Slussar.

The One-Hundredth Anniversary of our church was celebrated on October 17, 1965, while Rev. Paul Pike was pastor, with the Rev. Frank L. Shaffer, District Superintendent of the Buckhannon District, delivering the sermon. The trustees of the church were: Ben Heflin, Claude Bennett and Clifford Corder. Other officers were: Sunday School Superintendent - Gene Corder, Sunday School Secretary - Clifford Corder, Sunday School Treasurer - John Hart, Stewards - Edward Davis and George Carder, President of the Women's Society of Christian Service - Maggie Carder, and Church Clerk and Treasurer - Bernard Bennett.

At the leading of our Lord, ground was broken in April 2000 for the addition of a fellowship hall. It was completed and ready for the charge-wide Thanksgiving Dinner in 2000. With the loss of our local elementary school, we are able to help serve the needs of our community for dinners following funerals, wedding and baby showers, wedding receptions, etc. We can say that we have come full circle, as our fellowship hall is also the local polling place.

## **HISTORY OF THE BLACKBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Arnold Moore came to America from England in the early 1800's. He married Elizabeth Ann Straley and came to this valley and bought property from Philip Boilon, Sr.

Moore's made a land grant to what was to become a Brethren Church. The log church was built in the mid 1800's, but a courthouse fire destroyed early records. The earliest document, after the fire was dated December 12, 1892. However, the old log structure was probably built while the state was still Virginia. Logs for the church were taken from the land on the Moore farm. Building of the church was a community affair with every man and his team of oxen or horses "pulling their load." Heating was provided with coal mined from a shallow mine behind the church.

Porter Loudin, a master carpenter, was hired to design and build the pulpit stand and lectern as well as the detailed altar railing.

In 1926 a new addition was completed which included a spiraling tower with a 2700 pound bell. The bell was put into place by line and tackle plus the sweat of many men. In earlier years, the bell was used to alert the community in times of crisis. The old log structure was covered outside with weather-boarding, the inside sealed with planed lumber. This same year Ulysses and Sarah Moore gave a deed for the ground and new addition. The large stone at the entrance of the church was pulled about one mile to the site by four teams of horses. It was "dressed" by a stone mason and remains intact today.

In November 1946, the church became Evangelical United Brethren. In 1968 it merged with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church.

In 1991 the fourth generation of Moore heirs made the church a gift of natural gas from local wells. The church remains a spiritual center for several communities.

Trustees for the church at the present time are Odbert Mick, Clifford Wine, Charles Arbogast, Mary Arbogast and Harry Riffle.

## **BRISTOL UM CHURCH AND COPLIN UM CHURCH HISTORIES**

Rev. Pamela J. Everitt

### **Bristol UM Church History**

The Bristol United Methodist Church was founded on June 28, 1861 as the Cherry Camp Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1860, the year before the church was founded, the community of Goodtown, in which the church was founded had its name changed to Cherry Camp. Again, in 1899, due to the confusion of the delivery of mail with that of Cherry Grove, WV, the name of the community was changed to Bristol.

A sixty-year member of the church, Edgar Matthey, shared the origin of the name Bristol. He related that John Dransfield, an outstanding leader of the church, at that time, came up with the name. Mr. Dransfield was originally from England and offered the name Bristol after Bristol, England and the name was accepted. One of the stained glass windows in the church carries Mr. Dransfield's name.

Matthias W. Davis was the first pastor of the church. He, along with Noah Keesy, Dr. J. B. Conoway, Sam Good, and David W. Boggess were the founders of the church. Five generations later, Charlotte Steele, a descendant of the first pastor, M. W. Davis, still attends the church with her children and grandchildren.

Reverend Matthias Davis came to the Cherry Camp area from Monongalia County, WV. The area between Clarksburg and Parkersburg was generally opened up in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Northwestern, a wagon road that eventually became U.S. Route 50, was built through Salem and Cherry Camp (Bristol) in the 1850's. It is proposed that this might have been the reason that Reverend Davis relocated to the area, since he was a surveyor by trade and he may have moved to the area that was beginning to develop and needed surveyed. Courthouse records show that he surveyed the area known as Bristol and that it was being surveyed for oil wells. His great-great granddaughter, Anne Hurst, relates, "There was great dreams for the future of the Bristol area. There was a dream that some day it would not be an outpost of Clarksburg, but would rival it."

Reverend Davis received his license to preach from Lynch's Chapel, Macon, near Jarvisville, WV on December 20, 1862. The following is an excerpt from the day of his licensing (recorded in his daybook):

"My church licensed me to preach the gospel. On the night of this same date I tried to preach from these words, 'For the wages of Sin are death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.' Romans 6<sup>th</sup> chapter and 23. Since then I have tried to preach several times and have felt that the Good Lord has blessed me in my weak efforts so much so that I have been enabled to rejoice in His love several times since. And I felt like bearing my Cross and by the help of the Lord to preach as best I can trusting the Lord will bless me in it and sanctify my labours to the good of such that as may hear his word by me. And now I devoutly pray Almighty God that he will bless me and aid me and instruct me in the administration of His word, and that he bless my little family and help us to serve him acceptably and all meet together in Heaven."

He described in his daybook many of the same feelings I have had in my first year as an assigned supply pastor. He recognized that it was only with the help of the Lord that he was able to preach and that he needed God to bless, aid, and instruct him in the administration of God's Word. This is my fervent prayer as well.

One of Reverend Davis' sermons dated March 24, 1873 talks about honorable labour, temptation, sin, and the evils of rum. His sermon was direct and to the point that a person's decisions regarding the way they earned a living and their choice to imbibe or not imbibe was the difference between choosing heaven or hell. These are words that maybe we should continue to hear today as we live in a world that places so much value on succeeding in careers at the expense of ethical, moral behavior and in a society that has abuses of all kinds.

Reverend Davis died at the young age of 49 in 1875 as the result of a tragic accident that occurred while he was clearing a field. He was buried near his home at Cherry Camp. His obituary was extraordinary as it described his worldly accomplishments, but more importantly his character. He truly was a man of God. The Conference Journal in the Wesleyan College Library lists Reverend E. Ford as appointed to serve the church from 1865-66 and R. S. Welch as assigned supply in 1877.

In the 1980's, in honor of Reverend Davis, the Adult Sunday School Class named themselves after him. A 45-year member, Frank Hickman was serving as the teacher of that class at that time. Today, his widow, Lucille Hickman, still attends the church and serves as the substitute pianist.

The physical building of the church, as well as the physical location of the church, has changed over the years. On June 26, 1861 the founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at the Tannery Building on the site of the current Enon Baptist Church on Marshville Road and organized. Services were held there until 1866 when the first church was built on the south side of the Northwestern Pike (currently Route 50) and the B&O Railroad. It was a frame structure that was enlarged by extending the original building by 10 feet at one point in time.

As is true in most churches, many of the appointments of the church were made and/or donated by the members of the church. Noah Keesy, one of the original founders, made and donated the Pulpit for the church. The bell was donated by another founding member, David W. Boggess and his wife, Sarah. The church was originally heated with coal and had oil lamps for lights. Later, in 1903, gas stoves and lights were installed.

It is amazing the number of ministries that were in place in this little one-room church in those days. Every week there was preaching, Sunday school, Ephworth League, Class Meeting, Jr. League, and mid-week prayer meetings the year round. The members today tell me that the church is basically a Sunday school church which really does not need extra services beyond Sunday Preaching and Sunday School. The physical location of the church, I believe is a deterrent for the desire for additional services due to the church road being right on the four-lane highway in the middle of a blind curve. It is a very dangerous location to enter the four-lane road going either direction. Combining the unfortunate location with the age of most of the members, it is difficult to encourage any meetings or services that would be held in evenings and require the people to travel after dark.

The records show the names of congregates and Sunday school members at that time were basically Anglo in national origin. Names such as Davis, Coffman, Dransfield, Conaway, Bumgardner, Keesy, Leonard, and Young are still familiar names in the Bristol/Salem area today.



An August 8, 1882 entry into the Sunday School records shows how involved the community was in the church at that time. There were 22 adult scholars, 28 intermediate scholars, and 15 primary scholars, for a total of 65 scholars. There were 9 teachers, which made a total 74 members in the Sunday school program. Today, there are 50 total church members with an average of 14 members attending the church for worship. Sunday school averages about 9 each Sunday. A note from 1882 by the Treasurer, Mrs. Keesy, reveals that the first Sunday of each month was designated for mission work. This was a time where those gathered went out to the community to help in any way they could. They were truly servants of God's children!

Some of the members as late as the 1980's were among those whose parents put their names in the cornerstone of the church. Mrs. Frances Johnson was one such member and her son Bud Johnson is still a faithful member today. He and his wife Patty have been instrumental in the creation and operation of the Food Pantry of the Salem Parish. "Mission ministries to help neighbors" is still a concern of the Bristol Parish as it was of their founding forefathers and mothers.

The church cornerstone containing members' names was laid in a new church building by Masons from the Salem Lodge on August 30, 1926. A brick building was started and fully completed by June of 1927 at a cost of \$18,000 on a site north of Route 50 across from the B&O Railroad Depot. It consisted of an auditorium (sanctuary), Sunday school room, and basement with a fully equipped dining room and kitchen.

The old church building was auctioned off and bought by a couple that used it to build their home. The first services in the new church were held Christmas Eve 1926 in the basement and were carried on there until the sanctuary upstairs was finished in June of the next year. Sunday, June 26, 1927 was the first service upstairs and was the dedication of the completed church. Reverend Daniel Westfall from Pittsburgh led an all day meeting and evening service that day with dinner being prepared and served by the Ladies Aide Society.

A notation in one of the Church membership books shows that the Bristol Charge in 1939 was made up of the following churches: Bristol, Grass Run, Indian Run, Lyda Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Salem, and Smith Chapel.

An event that would change the life of the church occurred in 1945. It was at that time that a former Bristol man, Karl Keesy, who attended Bristol Church in his boyhood days, died, leaving the income of part of his estate in trust to the church for future generations. The church could not draw from the fund until the death of his wife or her remarriage. The fund actually became available to the church in the early 1970's.

It appears that around 1955, as with most churches, there was a struggle to keep the church in repair. The gothic windows of the church and the roof were in dire need of repair. Plaster walls were being damaged and the church was in danger of going to total ruin. The members re-roofed the church, but there were still leaks and plaster damage and nothing had been done to fix the windows. Members of the church contacted family of the members who had the windows as memorials, and they donated the funds to put the church back into repair.

In 1966 or 1967, the church trustees learned that a four-lane highway would replace the existing two-lane Route 50 and that it would run through the site of the church. There were two choices for the congregation – tear the church down and move membership to the Salem UM Church or move the church now known as the Bristol UM Church from the path of the new highway. The congregation voted in favor of moving the church further up the hill to the present location. There were some members who favored tearing the church down, but once the decision

was made; they joined whole-heartedly with the other members of the congregation in the mammoth task of moving the church.

Not wanting to cease services during the move, the congregation approached the Harrison County Board of Education to gain permission to hold services in the Bristol High School. The move was to take 6 weeks, but that timeframe extended into months and the church set on cribbage all winter before it was actually moved. It cost \$22,500 to move the church. The State paid \$36,000 for the old church property, so the remainder of the money was used to build a parsonage on the new site as well. Pictures were taken of the move and are in the cornerstone of the church.

By the time the Keesy Trust Fund was accessible in the early 1970's, the church needed to be re-roofed. At the same time, the parking lot and the road to the parsonage were paved, a septic system was installed, storm windows and basement carpet installed, and sliding doors for classrooms installed in the basement. In 1984 the church was air-conditioned and a water treatment system was installed in the parsonage.

Also, in 1984 a scholarship was established for students of higher education or vocational education. In the 1980's there continued to be Sunday Worship, Sunday School, United Methodist Youth, United Methodist Women, Vacation Bible School, Spring Heights Camping and Bible Study each week.

Over the next 20 years, the church would see a continual decline in membership and programming as the younger generations moved from the area to secure work. Much of the loss of work in the area has been due to the elimination of the many glass manufacturing plants in the Clarksburg area as well as the glass plant in nearby Salem. The elimination of the rail system in the area also has added to the loss of work and younger people in the area.

Also in the 1980's the makeup of the congregation was more or less evenly distributed among the members ranging from 1 year of age to ninety years of age. Today, the congregation is much smaller and the ages range from fifteen years of age to ninety-three, but the significant change is that the average age of the congregation is approximately 78 years of age. We have the one 15 year old and the next younger persons are his mother and father. Next in age would be a couple in their late 60's. The church currently has 52 members and has never had more than 100 members at one time in its entire history.

Today, the members reminisce about the 1970's when there were many more active members and various services and working groups in the church. Until about 10 years ago there was also a church choir. There is also talk about the desire to see the church grow again but it is difficult to get commitment of members to attend anything other than Sunday Worship and Sunday School due to the need for such meetings/activities to occur in the evenings for the pastor to participate. And the elderly congregation cannot participate in events that necessitate their driving after dark.

## **Coplin UM Church History**

On December 31, 1847 Benjamin Coplin leased one acre of land to the Methodist Church now known as the Coplin United Methodist Church. The lease was for 90 years, which expired in 1937.

The first church on the site was constructed in 1847 of hewn logs and was named the Mt. Lebanon Church. The building was used in those days for both Methodist and Baptist worship and other activities.

The church was one year old when the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1848. The church's earliest records begin in that year.

Over the years, since 1861, the church has been a part of the Salem, Cherry Camp, Jarvisville, and Bristol Circuits/Charges. It has also been a part of the Clarksburg District, the Buckhannon District, Midland North District, and finally the Wesleyan District of the WV Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Mt. Lebanon Church became the Coplin Methodist Church during the 1933 Annual Conference. In the Sunday School Secretary's record book, the entry for Sunday, June 11, 1933 lists for the first time, the name of the Coplin Sunday School. It lists the church officers and teachers at the time as 10 and the total attendance that Sunday as 52, as well as an offering of \$1.51. In talking with Luann Grant, who has lived in the area all of her life, during the 1940's when she was a child, she wanted to attend the church but there was such a crowd every Sunday that she could not even get into the church. That must have been an amazing site and experience!

The structure of the church today was built in 1872. The face of that 1872 church has undergone major change in the last 3 years. In that time frame, indoor restrooms have been built along with the digging of a basement under the church to house a Fellowship Hall, Sunday school rooms, and a kitchen. A narthex was added and the whole church was enclosed in brick and the church building surfaces are new inside and out. As several members have shared with me, it was their hope and prayers at that time that remodeling and adding the various spaces to the church would broaden the variety of activities the church could offer to the community and cause a growth in the membership of the church. Unfortunately, that growth has not been realized to date.

In 1968 when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged, Coplin Methodist Church became the Coplin United Methodist Church.

Existing records show that 78 ministers have served the church over the 159- year history of the church. I think it is interesting to note that the church has had an average of 2-year appointments for its pastors over the years. The longest tenure of a pastor at Coplin is 5 years.

It is also interesting to note that the church was left to have a pastor supplied due to the Civil War from 1861-1864.

The one half acre of land for the cemetery adjoining the church property was deeded to the church from Isaac C. Coplin on July 19, 1873, 26 years after the Benjamin Coplin lease. The adjoining cemetery, then, is 133 years old. Many of the family names on the markers are the same last names as those of congregation members still attending the church today.

The Grass Run UM Church and the Wolf Summit UM Church were both closed at the 2005 WV Annual Conference. None of the members of either of those churches transferred their membership to either of the two remaining churches.

## **CUTLIPSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

There is no permanent record of the Cutlipsville Church as to the exact time it was built. However, there is a deed available dated 1894 with the first trustees namely-C.B. Moyers, J.E West and Gilbert Hacker. At its beginning, it was known as Cutlips Methodist Church.

We do know concerned people of the Cutlips community gave their money, materials, and time to build the church, and when they finished it, the community was very proud.

The records were all destroyed in 1943 when the Church was washed off its foundation by a flood and again the community came together and restored it. It was that year that the church was deeded to the Methodist Conference.

At the first business meeting on July 12, 1994, it was agreed upon the Pastor's salary would be \$5.00 a month or produce. The Church had struggled for several years, but, in 1973, it was revived and added 10 new members. The Church was painted inside and our, God blessed the Church greatly. In 1976, the Church was completely remodeled. It was pinned, a new porch, replacing steps, new floor was laid, walls paneled, ceiling blocks put up, and new lights installed.

God continued to bless our church, and beginning in 1984 a dream was fulfilled. A new addition for classrooms and social activities was built. We also drilled a water well, added a kitchen, bathrooms, and a new altar to the main sanctuary. We did this on faith, and God honored our faith because in less than 1 year, we had a community cook out on the church lawn, and the mortgage was burned.

Sunday, July 31, 1991, the Cutlipsville United Methodist Church celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration included Sunday School, picnic lunch, singing, prayers, and visiting ministers sharing their thoughts on inspiration for the Church.

Down through the years, we have painted the church inside and out, installed carpet, curtains and blinds, and made other needed repairs. We continue to make improvements to keep God's House a light and a witness in our community. All are welcome.

In addition to our Sunday School and preaching services, we have revivals, vacation Bible school, Bible study, prayer meetings, gospel sings, and fellowship dinners.

Although, we are a small congregation at the present, we continue to labor for the Kingdom of God, looking forward to the day when we will be with Jesus forever and ever.

*Wyle Chapel*

Methodist Protestant Church - located near Pickle Street  
Alum Bridge, Lewis County.

by Guy F. Bailey

Before the Methodist class was started there was a United  
Brotherhood Organization. Mostly by the Asa Sleeth family. After  
a time more families moved in the community. The Rineharts and  
Allmans came from Hackers Creek near Berlin, Lewis co. They belong  
to a Methodist M. P. Their being a Methodist M. P. at Alum bridge  
and Rock Grove Baptist near what is now Linn.

There is no Methodist M. P. church in the community so in  
time the U. B. was absorbed by the Methodist.

In the year of 1893 the Methodist M. P. Class was organized  
and call the Leading Creek class. This being the name of the  
Post Office in the community also the stream of water was called  
Leading Creek.

The following is the Names of the early members.

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. J. S. Pratt                       |                                      |
| 2. William Rinehart                  | 16. C. C. Allman                     |
| 3. Sarah Rinehart                    | 17. Judson C. Wooster                |
| 4. Mary A. F. Pratt                  | 18. Abaslum Allman                   |
| 5. Elsey Rinehart                    | 19. Sautiah Harris                   |
| 6. Daisy (Allman) Hartley            | 20. Jessie Rinehart                  |
| 7. Gay Wooster                       | 21. Mrs. Jessie Rinehart             |
| 8. Inda (Wooster) Mayser             | 22. Jessie Wooster White             |
| 9. P. "Pat" E. Allman                | 23. Florence Rinehart                |
| 10. Mary <sup>Wyle</sup> Allman      | 24. Ethel Sleeth                     |
| 11. Porter Aples                     | 25. Flora Jones                      |
| 12. Emma (Sleeth) Brown              | 26. Gertrude Mcneypenny Dec. 8, 1901 |
| 13. Ellen <sup>(Allman)</sup> Bailey | 27. Myrtle Mcneypenny "              |
| 14. Lettie Fattie                    | 28. Hays Bailey "                    |
| 15. Merte Fattie                     | 29. W. H. Brown "                    |
|                                      | 30. B. F. Stutler "                  |

It was decided to call it after the pastor G. A. Doyle. Therefore it was called "Doyle Chapel".

By the church being in between the Carmel M. E. at Alum Bridge and Rock Grove Baptist all day service was held in the Afternoon so as not to conflict with the morning services of the others churches. In the year 1930 ? was changed to before noon.

During the years 1926 and 1927 the road was regraded. The church building was moved to present location, which was part of the old road bed. Also an old cemetery on the bank near the church.

A deed made Feb. 10, 1927 by Sarah Rinehart, widow, Theodora Rinehart and Florence Rinehart, his wife, Statira Lamb and O. E. Lamb, her husband, J. A. Rinehart, E. A. Rinehart and Bertie Rinehart, his wife, J. M. Rinehart and Daisy Rinehart, his wife, C. W. Rinehart and Effie A. Rinehart, his wife, Laura Mcneypenny and W. A. Mcneypenny, her husband to A. M. Allman and Charles Woofert Trustee of Doyle Chapel Methodist Protestant Church of Leading Creek, Va. Recorded in Deed book 127, page 436 on May 22, 1928.

Doyle Chapel was a part of the Vadis Circuit which was made up of Vadis, Ellis, Cox's Mills and Doyle Chapel.

The parsonage was located at Vadis. About the year 1925 it was moved to Pickle street. A house belong to Jess Hawkins was bought and moved up the creek about 100 feet. while this was being done the pastor L. H. Burns lived in the Lloyd Bailey house which was vacant. L. B. Ewen was first one to live in the new Parsonage. In 1929 the unification of the M.P. and M.E.. The Troy M.E. circuit and the Vadis circuit was combined. The M.E. parsonage at Troy was retained. The one at Pickle Street was sold.

The Troy parsonage was rebuilt in 1952 and 1953. It was dedicated Oct. 11, 1953.

- Stewart J. J. J.*
31. Iva woofter, joined some years ago
  32. Ona Brake " "
  33. Emma McMeileon , letter April 27, 1902
  34. Liddy woofter Lamb Jan. 14, 1904
  35. Loney ninehart Bailey , "
  36. Dora Bailey Harris "
  37. Julia woofter March 27, 1904

The school house which was near the present site of the church was used as a meeting place.

Rev. George A. Doyle was pastor from Oct. 1896 to Sept. 1898. During this period the church was built. Dedicated in the summer of 1898. It was very dry. The dust in the road was deep. The picnic dinner was served under walnut trees that stood across the creek from where the church was built.

The building was built by Jessie Rinehart and Lloyd Bailey who received some pay. Other help was done. The timber was cut on Butcher's farm and hauled to Alum Bridge where the mill was located by Peter Allman and Charley woofter.

The building was located on the Rinehart farm near the Kayser line. The lot was given by William Rinehart. At the court house of Lewis county, we find a deed dated July 10, 1900 by William Rinehart and Sarah Rinehart his wife to P. E. Allman, Jesse Rinehart, A. M. Allman, E. A. Rinehart, Jessie woofter, trustees of the Methodist Protestant Church Organization at Leasing Creek, in Lewis co. and state of Va.. Recorded in deed book 45 page 273 on Aug. 31, 1901.

After the church was built a name was wanted. The name "Mollie Chapel" was suggested. Mary "Mollie" Allman the wife of Peter Allman who lived up the run from the Camel M. P. church at Alum Bridge was one who helped with the organization of the church.

In the year of 1928 while Rev. Bowen was pastor a union C.E. or Young People meeting was organized between the Doyle Chapel, Rock Grove Baptist and Carmel Methodist church at Alum Bridge. The Sunday evening service was alternated with each church. D. C. Means was the first president. This union lasted until 1950 when Carmel started one of their own. The union still exists between the other two (1968).

A union mid week prayer meeting with alternating service with Rock Grove is well attended.

By action of annual conference  
of 1968 - C. E. B. & Methodist church  
leaving the Doyle Chapel United Methodist  
Church. Through Emerging with the  
Methodist it is recognized as United  
Methodist.



Pastors of the Vadis Circuit, year from Oct. to Sept.

- |                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. J. I. Vincent<br>1887-1890     | 21. Z. B. Bowen<br>1937-1938                        | <i>1st one to live in new Parsonage at Little H.</i> |
| 2. Mortimer Ireland<br>1890-1892  | 22. Thomas Spiker<br>1933-1936                      |  |
| 3. E. J. Harris<br>1892-1894      | 23. J. S. Carver<br>1936-1938                       |  |
| 4. J. W. Smith<br>1894-1896       | 24. Laco J. Lunsford<br>1938-1939                   |  |
| 5. George A. Doyle<br>1896-1898   | 25. Ottis Linger-<br>1939-1940                      | year of unification<br>lived at Troy                 |
| 6. J. C. Reese<br>1898-1899       | 26. C. J. Allender<br>1940-1942                     |  |
| 7. J. B. Carder<br>1899-1900      | 27. W. W. Beale- did not stay<br>1942               |  |
| 8. F. W. Kelley<br>1900-1904      | 28. Earl DeBarr<br>1942-1947                        |  |
| 9. O. P. McNeill<br>1904-1905     | 29. Ralph McCoy<br>1947-1949                        |  |
| 10. F. T. Goode<br>1905-1907      | 30. Marvin E. Burns<br>1949-1952- 3 1/2 years       |  |
| 11. D. H. Tremly<br>1907-1910     | 31. Kenneth Cruickshanks<br>1952-1953 - 1 1/2 years |  |
| 12. Worthy W. Morris<br>1910-1911 | 32. Paul Conley<br>1953-1956                        |  |
| 13. Wm. H. Burns<br>1911-1916     | 33. Hayward Price<br>1956-1957                      |  |
| 14. A. R. Harvey<br>1916-1917     | 34. Billie Helmick<br>1957-1961                     |  |
| 15. J. A. Richmond<br>1917-1919   | 35. <u>J. R. Armentrout</u><br>1961-                |  |
| 16. A. L. Nester<br>1919-1921     | 36. 1963-66<br>Rev. Lerley                          |  |
| 17. W. H. Hart<br>1921-1922       | 37. Rev. Albert Skinner 1966-                       |  |
| 18. Paul Riegel<br>1922-1923      | 39 - James Ruder                                    |  |
| 19. J. H. Lough<br>1923-1925      | 40 Rev. A. Long                                     |  |
| 20. W. H. Burns<br>1925-1927      | <i>transferred to Holy Body home at Little H.</i>   |  |

# East View EOB Now Meth.

## HISTORY OF EAST VIEW E. O. B. NOW METH.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matt. 18: 20.

It was probably with this assurance in mind that a handful of people decided to organize the United Brethren Church in what was then known as Union Heights #1. On April 10, 1914 these people, under the sponsorship of Rev. D. W. Cunningham organized and held their first meetings in the school house, which was then a two room structure. Members of the original group were: A. J. Arnold, J. B. Burrows, Mrs. Sarah Kellison, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Haze, Mrs. Myrtle Horthough, Lloyd Weaver and his Mother, Mrs. Virginia Weaver.

From the first the membership had hopes of building their own church home. Unable financially to begin work on the kind of building they desired, they erected a temporary structure, which was known as The Tabernacle. This building was started in October, 1917, and was completed in December of the same year. In this building Rev. Cunningham served as pastor until 1920. At this time Rev. Cunningham was also pastor of the Adamston charge. In the absence of the pastor, a Mr. Skinner conducted services as a layman. Mr. Skinner was a grave digger and caretaker for Greenlawn cemetery. Mr. W. T. Haze taught the adult Sunday School class and Mrs. Wilma (Reece) Matheny taught the children.

Rev. Cunningham was a short, heavy set man, weighing about 275 lbs. He had a ruddy complexion and sandy hair— Atypical Santa Claus without a beard. Mrs. Cunningham was a tall, thin woman with gray hair. Rev. Cunningham died June 23, 1932 at the age of 71.

Rev. W. E. Scott was the second pastor of the church. He served three years— from 1920 to 1923. He is described as a short man, about 160 lbs, clean shaven with dark hair. He died June 8, 1929 at the age of 58.

A very urgent need was felt for a larger church and in 1922, one of the charter members, Mr. W. T. "Billy" Haze presented to the members the excellent lot on which the church now stands. Much work, money, time and prayers were needed.

In 1923, from Calhoun County a wiry little man with a big voice was sent to East View. (We had by that time become East View instead of Union Heights.) He was Rev. A. I. Summers. Plans were soon laid for the new building and Rev. Cunningham returned in July 1924 to turn the first shovel full of dirt and break ground for the new church. The Clarksburg Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, laid the corner-stone, Nov. 2, 1924. The contract for the main part of the building was let August 10, 1925, to I. F. Lawson. The first service was held in the basement August 30, 1927. It was another two years before the upper portion of the church was completed and available for use.

From the mere handful who composed the original class, the church had grown to include more than 300 adult members. The present building cost in excess of \$20,000.

There were years of debt. Some of the trustees mortgaged their homes. The Ladies Aid Society quilted quilts, put on suppers and devised many schemes to pay on the debt. All of the classes tried in many ways to do their share of paying. Rev. Summers suggested a penny drive which was a success but not adequate. Delegates returned from conference with no appropriations but with an edict that no more money making schemes be used. Rev. Summers was still the bulwark for these loyal Christians who had mortgaged their homes for the Church. Rev. Ware and Rev. Showers came to the church to talk of some aid from the conference, but both were taken in death before anything could be done.

Dedication day was set for August 11, 1935. The program opened with Sunday School. Mr. Boyd Skidmore was Superintendent. The attendance was 209. Dr. F. H. Capehart, West Dis't Sup't. delivered the dedicatory sermon and assisted in raising the necessary funds to apply on indebtedness. Dr. Capehart proved himself a master in the art of raising money. When the noon hour arrived, there had not been quite enough money raised to complete the undertaking for the day. The women of the church served a sumptuous meal in the basement. The money goal for the day had been set at \$1900.00. Soon after noon the amount received in pledges and cash amounted to ~~14~~ \$1941. 65, of which \$500.00 was cash. The notes were burned by the trustees and the building dedicated by Dr. Capehart, assisted by Rev. W. G. Ware, Sup't. East District, Rev. S. J. Westfall, and Rev. A. I. Summers.

Trustees at this time were W. T. Maze, J. R. Hoodispaugh, E. T. Collett, A. F. Arnold, W. P. Root, John Yokead and Price Lynch.

About 1944 or 45 the church decided to buy the Skidmore property to use as a parsonage. It has proven a good investment.

Rev. Summers served the church from 1923 to 1947. During his years at East View we have seen many dreams become realities.

Rev. Elair Burr followed Rev. Summers. He served from 1947 to 1950. During his pastorate the church added 60 new members and did \$5500.00 in improvements. These included rest rooms, a heating plant, new paint and fiber glass insulation.

Rev. F. H. Tenney was sent to East View in 1950. He served one year.

Rev. Hartsel Bodkins came to East View in 1952. He served until 1956. During his pastorate East View became a station church. We had been sharing our pastors with the Liberty Church. Rev. Bodkins was transferred to Shinnston in 1957.

Following Rev. Bodkins was Rev. David L. Sayre who pastored the church from 1957 to 1960.

Next was Rev. Parker Kerns 1960 to 1963. When he was first assigned to East View, the parsonage was repainted inside and out. New ~~carpets~~ were installed in the kitchen, also floor covering. The bath room floor was covered with tile furnished by the young people. The garage ~~was~~ was reroofed by some of the men of the church. New storm windows and back door were installed by the members, some buying a window individually. In the church Rev. Summers had the memorial picture window installed back of the pulpit. The roof on the side of the Maze property was extended and all rooms in the basement were repainted.

Rev. Lonnie Armentrout came to East View in 1963. He is still with us and has proved himself a capable pastor. He personally went out in the neighborhood and solicited money to redecorate the inside of the church. The roof has been repaired, also the chimes. Electric heaters were installed which were later taken out when the furnace was repaired.

This is to date the history of the East View E. U. B. Church. Many things could have been included--so much has transpired. Alloo of the original members have gone to their reward. Many of our members also. But they have left us a part of themselves in our church. May we always uphold it. This is our HERITAGE.

Ada M. (Hogue) Harbert, Historian  
August 8, 1965

## **HISTORY OF THE ELLIS GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The Ellis Grove United Methodist Church, named by Mrs. B.F. Conrad, was built jointly by Methodist and Baptist people of the community sometime in early 1881. Several years earlier the Methodists had started to build a meeting house but never completed it. With the unused lumber and supplies that was stacked inside the uncompleted building, they were able to construct the church. It was dedicated November 13, 1881. For sixty-two years the church stood on a steep hill at the mouth of Ellis two to three miles below Joe's Run.

In 1906 after twenty-five years of agreeable partnership, the Baptist membership sold their share of the church to the Methodists and moved their congregation to Sand Fork. The Methodists continued to worship God in the little church on the hill.

In the summer and fall of 1943, the membership decided to move their little church to level ground for better access. The church was torn down and rebuilt on the waters of Sand Fork about one mile from the mouth of Ellis. In 1968 the Ellis Grove Methodist Church became the Ellis Grove United Methodist Church as a result of the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist churches.

Trustees at the present time are Avin Lowther, Elizabeth Lowther, Jimmie Lowther, Buryel Lowther, Junior Osborn, Sue Osborn, Johnny Wilfong and Nina Wilfong.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Fairview United Brethren Church, built and dedicated September 17, 1893, had its beginnings from a group of citizens of the community who had been using the abandoned Peru school house as a place of worship in about 1892-93. When that building was sold and moved to another location they were left without a meeting house. With Ballard Rogers and D. S. Engel as the moving forces the Fairview United Brethren Church was built. Many people from the community helped with the construction of the building and became members of the congregation and worship with their families here.

The charter members of Fairview were D. S. Engel, his wife Sarah Rider Engel, their daughter Cora Engel Bailey, Sherman Grant Engel, Rachel Lively, Martha McElwain and Rose Collins Dobbins.

Reverend R. A. Hitt, the presiding elder of the Buckhannon District, delivered the message at the dedication service. J. F. Pritchard of the Cedarville charge was appointed the first pastor. The church has since been pastored by forty more servants of God.

In 1923 the Gassaway Charge was formed and Fairview moved from the Cedarville circuit and became a branch of Gassaway Circuit, along with Little Otter, Copen Creek and Engel Chapel.

At the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the church, September 19, 1943, a large crowd was present, of which 39 had attended the dedication in 1893. In 1968 the United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist church and we became Fairview United Methodist Church. The church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary August 29, 1993, with a crowd of nearly 200 present.

By 2005 the Gassaway Charge had shrunk to just two churches, Fairview and Little Otter. At that time we were moved to the Braxton Charge. Our sister churches are now Richmond Chapel, Pleasant Dale, Loydsville, Cutlipville and Pleasant Hill. Our current pastor is Bill Carr.

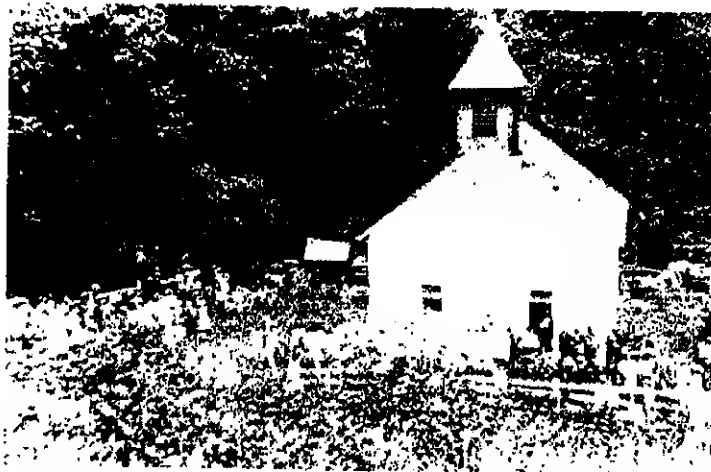
Fairview church has seen times of growth and times of waning membership, always mindful of the Lord's promise that "where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them."

## FALL RUN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

What was one time a laurel and white growth, graced by rhododendron, is now the setting of Fall Run United Methodist Church. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by Emery Berry and wife Caroline on June 14, 1890, and was cleared by G.S. Lowther and his son Harrison.

The church was built of white poplar, which was donated, and labor was free. It had the first ringing bell for miles around. The lectern was hand made by Jefferson Mick.

Dedication services were in 1892 and first pastor was John Cobb. In the flood of July 24, 1935, the church was washed from its foundation facing the hill to the present location facing Rt. 19, with very little damage.



*Fall Run Methodist Church*

The first members as of May 1893 were: Emery Berry (Leader), D.H. Prince, G.S. Lowther, C.B. Hardman, J. R. Casto, W.H. Hardman, M.E. Hardman, S.F. Hardman, Virginia Hardman, Cora Prince, P.W. Hardman, M.M. Hardman, Lidda Heaton, Cora White, Bessie Lowther, Sara Mick, Simeon Ware, Abraham Sponaugle, Cora Cummings, Lillie Barrickham, Otis Barrickham, W.L. Prince, Mary Sponaugle, Mary Ware, Edwin Cummins, Maggie Cummins, William Cummins, E.M. Casto, George Brown, R.W. Casto, John White, Sara Ware, L.W. Ware and T.B. Hardman.

The church in the vale is still ringing out its welcome to its many friends near and far. *Submitted by: Eva Bull*

# An Uplifting Experience

A West Virginia tale of the little church that could.

NADINE DAVIS

The boy's nose wrinkled as he squinted against the sun through pine trees at the tiny church below the road.

"You know," he said, "the folks of that church are too poor to turn the front around to face the street."

His companion paused to gawk down the ravine at church doors which, indeed, yawned open toward the side of a hill instead of the main roadway. The pair adjusted fishing poles across their shoulders and ambled down West Virginia Route 19. It was a new highway, and the original dirt thoroughfare between church and mountain was already in irreversible obsolescence. The year was 1935.

Fall Run United Methodist Church in Braxton County was built in 1892 with free, member labor and local materials, on land donated by the Sunday-School leader, Emery Berry. The original tongue-in-groove church walls were rough-planed, white-washed poplar (inside and out).

Although the first congregation sang without benefit of organ or piano, the little church claimed to have the first loud-bronze bell in the vicinity. Bell ropes dangled from the steeple through the rafters behind neat rows of pews at the rear of the only room, where the hand-carved, altar lectern — crafted in solid oak — was held together, seemingly, by miracles — not nails.

On the evening of July 24, 1935, the church was lighted by three brass



Nadine Davis

lanterns, suspended on chains over the middle aisle. Outside, the grove of laurel and rhododendron around the church contrasted a dark outline against an eerie-pale sky. The burnside-coal stove in the back of the church felt cool and damp in summer disuse.

Later, while the hamlet slept, lightning crackled through the night, but nobody remembers the rain starting — a summer storm, like other mountain showers.

Just before dawn, Mrs. Howard Prince awakened her husband.

"I hear cows bawling in the field. Something's wrong."

Her suspicions were confirmed when she raised up off the bed and glanced down — at her slippers floating by. The Princes splashed through foot-deep water to the door, from where they

could see the piqued cattle standing in water to their briskets in the flash flood, gripping about the humidity.

Fortunately, no live-stock was lost. Not even chickens or dogs washed away that night — just Mrs. Prince's slippers and the Fall Run Church.

From its position facing the hill, the little church had floated to a new spot a few yards down the run — to its present location — facing Route 19.

The tin roof leaks a little now. The brass lanterns were stolen a few years ago. And to a degree, gas drilling in the area has replaced rhubarb farming.

But the bronze bell still rings on Sundays, and on the hill above

the church, grave stones — some very old, some brand new — bear evidence that continuity permeates the hollows and hills in rural West Virginia — a comfortable sameness in the midst of change.

The tiny church in Braxton County faces the "new" road — wedged in a glen between two merging branches of a mill stream, and rests its foundation on hand-chipped limestones — and its history on the Scotch-Irish-English durability of Braxton County's people.

Nadine Davis is a freelance writer/photographer living in Beckley, West Virginia, whose great-grandfather was an original member of the Fall Run Church.

COUNTRY July 1983 7

## **Flatwoods United Methodist Church**

The Flatwoods United Methodist Church has a long and rich history of service to God that started with the early pioneers and dates at least as far back as 1824. It has been said by early citizens of the area that Union soldiers quartered in the building to keep confederate forces from using it burned down the Church in 1862. And in fact, our Church records show that the United States Government paid the Church a sum of \$500.00 sometime in the late eighties or early nineties as payment for the burning, giving credence to recollection of our early citizens.

There have been several buildings, fires, rebuilding, denominational splits, and wars, to include a Civil War, since its earliest beginnings. But this same basic, core congregation has continued to stand in the service of the Lord until now, the dawn of the new millennium. The current Church was completed in 1892 and has undergone some changes to its structure, and had some remodeling over the years.



# FRENCH CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## HISTORY

In 1811 Robert Young and Gilbert Gould from Massachusetts settled on Mulberry Ridge, about two miles south of the present Presbyterian Church in French Creek. Over the next few years, several families followed the Youngs into the area. Lacking a church, services were held in Robert's home. Records show that the early families included the Youngs, Phillipses, Goulds, Perrys, Brooksies, Morgans, Sextons, Leonards and others.

In 1864, a group of seven people met in French Creek to plan a Methodist Episcopal Church organization and building. The next year, in 1865, a log house of worship was built on the old Booney Young farm, about a mile from the church's current location. We have a record of 20 members in 1868. A new frame building was erected in 1882 on the site of the present church; but in June, 1911, it burned when the post-office building near it was robbed and set afire to cover the robbery. By that time, the congregation had grown to about 120 members, and they immediately set about building a new church, contributing their individual talents and resources. Many worked at the going rate for labor (\$2 a day), and those wages were frequently returned to the church via the offering plate. The new church was debt-free when it opened in 1912.

William C. Colerider was the chairman of the building committee. Others on the committee included Frank Page and A.L. Phillips. The trustees were M. H. Rexroad, Henry Colerider, John Armstrong, Dr. F.F. Farnsworth, A. L. Phillips and W.B. Phillips. Head carpenters were Clint Reed and his brother Richard. Parley Rexroad was a very fine carpenter who installed the stained glass windows. Other assistants included Odie Snyder and Abe (A.L.) Phillips.

Odie Snyder, a teen-ager at the time, recalled that he helped haul the old leaded stained-glass windows from Buckhammon to French Creek on a hayrack. These windows, the doors, church bell, pews and matching wainscoting, alter railing and pulpit, were all purchased from the congregation of the First Methodist Church in town. They were dismantling their old church after building the big brick one on Florida Street. The French Creek congregation spent two weeks of hard work, cleaning every inch of the darkened wainscoting and pews, and discovered the beauty we see today of alternating light and dark wood. They laid the cornerstone in the same year as the fire, 1911, and the church was dedicated on June 8th and 9th the following year. Of note, since the old church in town had been built in 1868, some portions of the current French Creek church are much older than its 1911 cornerstone.

Many changes have taken place over the years. Starting about 1960, the old deserted buildings that had surrounded the church were purchased and removed, and a fellowship hall with classrooms, kitchen, and rest rooms was added. In 1985, the area experienced a 100-year flood which put about two feet of water inside the church. This was the first time in history that flood water actually entered the church, although previous floods had frequently risen under the church. Fortunately, the waters receded rather quickly and the community mobilized immediately to clean up the church and restore order. There was little structural damage, although some carpeting had to be replaced as well as the floors in the classrooms. The only irreparable damage was the loss of some of the church records. Two to three years later, a second flood brought a few inches of water into the church, but there was little damage and the community again moved rapidly to remove the effects of the flood water.

Other changes have included padding the pews and repairing the stained glass windows. More recently, a sound system was installed, the kitchen was enlarged, and a handicapped rest room and ramp were built. In 2006, the old furnace was replaced with a new one, and an air conditioning unit was installed for the sanctuary.

The church today reflects the commitment of the congregation, past and present, to build and maintain a house of worship and praise, equipped to serve all people.

## **Brief History of First Gassaway United Methodist Church**

In 1904 a lot was purchased from the Gassaway Development Company for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In August of 1908 the building was dedicated at a cost of \$6,000, with Rev. H. A. Spencer as new pastor.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was first organized in the Davis Grade School building with the first quarterly conference being held December 14, 1906. The lot for this church was purchased in 1908 and the church was erected at a cost of \$5,000 and was dedicated in 1909 by Bishop Moore. The membership of the church grew until at the time of unification of the two churches in 1940. The M. E. Church had 141 members and the M. E. Church, South 293. In 1950 the joint membership was 425.

During the pastorate of Rev. Homer Metheny from 1917-1919 the M. E. Parsonage was purchased for \$2,500.

During the ministry of Rev. J. N. Herald, the M. E. Church, South parsonage was purchased on August 18, 1920 for \$2,475.

Sunday School progressed favorably in each church. In 1917 an Epworth League for young people was started in the M. E. Church with a similar organization in the M. E. Church, South. The work of the women in the church was very active.

During 1940 unification proceedings were started and were completed during the summer. A new building was planned and December 6, 1945 a church lot was purchased for \$2,000 from the Bartletts on the site of the old Y.M.C.A. building. Due to the war and lack of building supplies, work never actually began until August 1949, with the cornerstone being laid on May 6, 1950. The new building was dedicated on Sunday morning, December 24, 1950, by Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke. The building cost \$39,181.21.

In 1969 our name was changed to First Gassaway United Methodist Church after the union with the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

The groundbreaking for a new Educational Unit was held on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1968, led by Rev. Billee Scott Mick. Cost of the new unit was approximately \$50,000.

A new parsonage lot was purchased on Lee Street for \$4,000, and the bi-level, three-bedroom parsonage was built at a cost of \$37,800 in the late 1960's early 1970's.

## Hacker Valley United Methodist Church

Former names of church, if any:      None

Date of organization:                      1897

Organizing pastor:                        J. D. Stalnaker

Any important details surrounding the organization (a new congregation, sponsoring congregation, costs)

Formerly the Baptist used the same building for services. The first Building was in 1897 and the second was built in 1933.

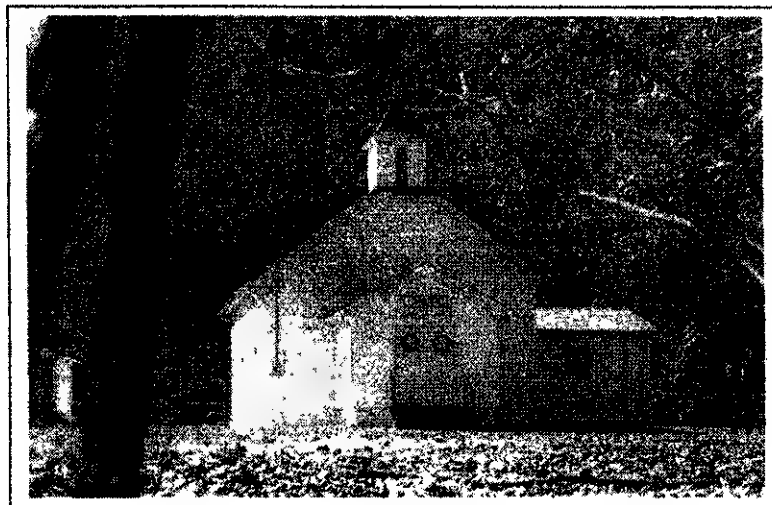
Has anyone from your church or area entered the ordained or diaconal Ministry?

Rosa Alice Mace became missionary to China in 1900.

Are any deceased clergy buried in your area?      Rev. Charles W. Pugh (1890-1972)  
Rev. Erasmus S. Pugh (1858-1941)

List families associated with the first church at this location: Carter, Cowger, Cutlip, Light and Mace

Family names of present congregation: Cogar, Cutlip, Davis, Hall, Hudkins, Mace and Simmons



## **HackerValley United Methodist Charge**

The first Methodist organization in the northern area of Webster County was the Jacksonville circuit, which included Lewis, Upshur and Webster counties. This organization took place sometime prior to 1880. The Methodist classes were held in schoolhouses, homes and later in church buildings when available. Some camp meetings may have been held when weather permitted.

The earliest members listed were at the Oak Grove Church at Kanawha Head in Upshur County. Sabine Curry is listed as a member in 1867, pastor W. S. May, M. P. Haymond and Susan Haymond are listed as members in 1869; the pastor then was J. S. Perline.

The first services were held by circuit riders. They were pastors who covered a circuit of classes on a regular schedule. These pastors and sometimes the pastor's family would board with a member family while at that appointment. These pastors were Methodist Episcopal South and Methodist Protestants. A few Methodist Episcopal pastors visited the area from Tennerton.

In the early 1880's the circuit's name was changed to the Cleveland Circuit. The first church building was a log structure built at Cleveland on land donated by W. S. Lingle. When the building was complete the congregation made it clear that the church was for the Methodist Episcopal South only. The other denominations continued to worship at the one-room schoolhouse.

Later another tract of land was purchased from Mr. Lingle and a building was built on the site of the present Cleveland Church. It was dedicated to the Methodist Episcopal South and used by the Methodist Protestants, Baptist and Presbyterians. Rev. J. D. Stalnaker was the pastor representing the MES. Under his direction other churches were soon built: in 1892, Mount Pleasant (Hodam), Mount Zion in 1893 and Hacker Valley in 1897. Later land was received from Mr. Lingle for a parsonage. Rev. Stalnaker was the first pastor to live in the parsonage.

Rosa Alice Mace, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Eli Mace was born at Hacker Valley in 1877. She taught school on Miller Mountain in 1897 and 1898. Early in life she had the urge to become a missionary. She became a missionary to China in 1900. She was the first missionary from Webster County. She served 15 years at Mitsang and more than 20 years at Foochow, China. She loved China and the Chinese people.

In 1924 the Cleveland Charge had 10 churches in three counties. In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal churches, the Methodist Protestant Churches and the Methodist Episcopal churches south united into the Methodist Church. In 1959 a new parsonage was built at Hacker Valley and the Cleveland Charge became the Hacker Valley Charge. Pastor Rufus O'Quinn and family moved into the new parsonage in 1959.

In 1968 the United Methodist Church as established when the Methodist Church was united with the Evangelical United Brethren Church. There were no Evangelical United Brethren Churches in this area.

The first Hacker Valley Church was built in 1897. The present building was erected in 1933 at the site of the first building. Through the years the building was shared with the Baptist, Methodist Protestants, and Methodist Episcopal. The church was dedicated to the Methodist Episcopal South Church.

The Methodist Protestant had a parsonage at Hacker Valley situated just across the Left Fork of Holly River from the current church.

Jerry Run United Methodist Church was built in 1954. The first pastor was Austin Ayers. Prior to building a church, the congregation worshipped in the Jerry Run one-room school located nearby.

# Methodist Episcopal South

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Prior to 1890	William C. Leach
"	J. D. Stalnaker
"	J. S. Perlins
"	W. S. Mays
"	A. H. "Tip" Martin
"	C. S. Wamsley
"	H. Poling
1891-1900	J. D. Stalnaker
1901-1902	H. Poling
1902-1903	T. R. Houghton
1903-1904	Erastus S. Pugh
1904-1905	Higgenbottom/W. C. Leach
1905-1906	G. C. Ingram/W. H. Beal
1906-1907	H. Poling
1908-1909	W. W. James
1910	H. Poling
1911	G. W. Remley
1912	W. F. Swecker
1913	P. C. Conley
1914-1916	H. D. Spencer
1916-1919	Erastus S. Pugh/H. C. Conley
1919-1920	Perry R. Rood/L. E. Harrison
1920-1922	William Shawyer/IW. I. Canter
1922-1923	Erastus S. Pugh
1923-1925	Robert M. McClain
1925-1927	Luther Whitman
1927-1928	Roy A. Flint
1928-1930	Perry B. Harrison
1930-1932	S. H. Whorrell
1932-1934	L. C. Morris
1934-1936	Cecil Burns
1936-1938	O. B. McClung
1938-1939	T. S. Stout
1939	Ira S. Hull

### Methodist Protestant Pastors

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
1903	J. E. Shock
1905-1906	C. A. Heaton
1908	John J. Tonkin
1909-1911	William H. DeLung
1911-1913	S. E. McCarty
1916	L. W. Loudin
1918	George E. Vance
1925	J. S. Johnson
1928-1929	Rotchie Smalley
1929-1930	W. T. Leggett
1930-1933	W. T. Frasure
1933-1945	Earl DeBar
1942	Raymond Hinkle

### Methodist Church Pastors (Following the 1939 Union)

1940-1942	Earl DeBar
1942-1944	Davy Burns
1944-1947	N. D. Harless
1947-1948	George B. Ervin
1948-1949	D. E. Myers
1949-1952	Donzel Weese
1952-1954	Ralph McCoy
1954-1955	Austin Ayers
1955-1956	Thomas Snyder
1956-1959	Raymond Patrick
1959-1963	Rufus O'Quinn
1963-1964	James Weaver
1964-1968	Franklin Mick
1968-1971	Charles Pugh
1971	Daniel Bryan
1971-1972	Marsha Arno
1972-1973	Dan Ward
1973-1976	Louis "Ben" Simmers
1976-1983	Conrad Tenney
1983-1984	Daryl Shue
1984-1989	Virgil Hornbeck
1989-1990	Bernard Skeen
1990-1991	Glover "Jim" Johnson
1991-1993	Clarice Daniel
1993-1994	Ben Myers
1994-1996	Richard Smith
1996-1997	Paul Suder
1997-1999	Alan Neal
1999-2000	Phillip LEMIRE
2000-2002	Dayton Cutright
2002 -	DONALD DUGAS



# METHODIST CLASSES AND CONGREGATIONS

## Methodist Episcopal South

1900

Mt. Zion  
Mt. Pleasant (Hodam)  
Cleveland  
Hacker Valley  
Eden  
Oak Grove  
Hacker's Camp  
Poling  
Cow Run  
Cowger

1920

Chestnut Grove  
Cowger  
Eden  
Hacker Valley  
Mt Zion  
Oak Grove  
Cleveland  
Pleasant View  
Stonecoal

1924

Chestnut Grove  
Cowger  
Stone Coal -Lewis  
Pleasant View -Lewis  
Cleveland  
Oak Grove -Upshur  
Mt Zion  
Hodam  
Hacker Valley  
Eden -Upshur

## Methodist Protestant

1920

Pott's Run  
Chestnut Grove  
Goshen  
Grassy Creek  
Panther Lick  
Mt Nebo  
Brown's Mountain  
Buffalo  
Bright  
Red School House  
Vance School House  
Cleveland  
Hacker Valley  
Jerry Run

## Methodist Church

1952

Cleveland  
Hacker Valley  
Jerry Run  
Panther Lick  
Mt Zion  
Chestnut Grove  
Pleasant View  
Mt.Pleasant (Hodam)  
Cowger

1990

Hacker Valley  
Cleveland  
Mt Zion  
Panther Lick  
Chestnut Grove  
Jerry Run

1997

Hacker Valley  
Mt Zion  
Jerry Run



### **Bits and Pieces**

- Our first woman pastor was Marsha Arno in 1971.
- Rev. Rufus O'Quinn and family were the first family to occupy the Hacker Valley Parsonage in 1959.
- At time of her death, Audra Mace had been a member of the Hacker Valley United Methodist Church for 75 years.
- Additional pictures and information may be found on the website: [Mountainparkway.com](http://Mountainparkway.com)

Report prepared by: Amelia Anderson

## **Brief History of Hodgesville Heaston United Methodist Church**

The original church was built in 1884 after Rev. David M. Heaston was assigned to the Buckhannon Circuit. It was referred to as "the Little Brown Church" and was located further back on the lot than the present church. About 2 months after the construction began; Rev. Heaston was stricken with typhoid fever and on November 11, 1884, went to meet his maker. After the completion of the church, it was decided to name it in honor of this minister.

On Sunday morning, Feb. 14, 1895, at 2 o'clock, the small community of Hodgesville was awakened by calls that the little church was on fire. Though everyone worked diligently to extinguish the fire, there was not enough equipment or water to do so. The "Little Brown Church" burned to the ground.

Services were held in the school house until a new church could be built. By September 28, 1896, most of the lumber and money had been collected to pay for a new church, but work had not yet begun. This second church was dedicated in 1896. This second church was also very small. In 1904, a bell tower was added and the hills and valleys of Hodgesville came alive with the sound of the Sunday Church bell.

In 1910, the congregation decided they needed a larger church. The old one was torn down and a new church was completed in time to be reported to the annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church on October 4-9, 1911. This church was heated by two "pot bellied stoves" for many years, one on each side of the main Sanctuary.

This record is an excerpt from "Echoes of Glory", Hodgesville Heaston Church Centennial Edition by Gary Wayne Evans, of Buckhannon, West Virginia. This book is an extensive record of the Hodgesville Charge, and is still available. Gary had to have spent many, many hours on research. The book not only contains records, but it also has many little "stories" of interest about the community and people of Hodgesville.

Many changes have occurred since then. Many problems have been overcome. God willing, the Hodgesville UM Church will stand and be used for many more years.

**Horner United Methodist Church**  
Rt. 33 & 24 Georgetown Rd.  
Horner, WV 26372

2006- Marks the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Horner United Methodist Church serving the Horner and surrounding communities. We are very excited about the blessings God has given us over the last century and a half. Horner is a church rich in history and tradition with a proud heritage. Our family comes together to celebrate the blessings God has given us and we come together to cry when life's burdens are weighing on our lives. The congregation of Horner United Methodist Church is not just a group of people that meet together on Sunday mornings. We are a living breathing family of believers, committed to caring, loving, and praying for one another. We hope you take a moment to learn a little more about our church and our family that worships within its walls.

Henry D. Hardman, who formerly came from the Jess's Run section of Hacker's Creek, in 1831, called in a minister from that section to hold Methodist Episcopal Church services. The first meetings were held in his home. When the number of the group became larger it was decided to build a church, and in the summer and fall of 1855 work was done on the building. The Church was completed and dedicated sometime during the summer of 1856. The Church was named Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Church. It was first located three-quarters of a mile south-east of the present location. The attendance varied from thirteen to eighty-five.

At first the church was served by a minister from the Hacker's Creek section. Later as no M.E. Church was located near here, the Church was then placed on the South Buckhannon Circuit and the ministers lived in Buckhannon.

In the year 1892 the church was torn down and moved to its present location, on land given by one of its members, Julia A. Horner, to the Trustees of the Church. For several years thereafter the Church was called Julia Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church from the donor of the lot. Sometime down through the years that followed, from the Quarterly Conference to and through the Annual Conference the name was changed for Julia Chapel to Horner Methodist Episcopal Church. The Church is materially the same church that stood on the former location. The Church was dedicated on the first Sunday of November, 1892, that being November 5, 1892, the Sunday before the 1892 Presidential Election of Grover Cleveland (1893-1897) and from that time on for thirty-two years it stood as it was built.

From 1892 to 1924 the arrangements of the seating, entrance and etc., was different from what it is now. The congregation faced toward the road, the rostrum and pulpit stood where the double doors are now. There was one entrance on each side of the rostrum. In 1924 the church was remodeled. An alcove was added to the church, the rostrum and pulpit were moved to their present position. The seating was arranged so that the congregation faced the minister as it is now.

On May 7, 1929, we ordered new seats for the church from a Mr. Ware in Belington, West Virginia. It took several months to get them for they were hand-made. May 10, 1939 at a special General Conference held at Kansas City, Mo., the three branches of the Methodist Church,

namely; The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Protestant Church (1828-1939) and The Methodist Episcopal Church South, (1844-1939) were united into one Church and became the "Methodist Church" as we have it now.

During the summer of 1943 the church was raised, then underpinned with blocks of concrete in an attempt to get the building above flood stage. Before daylight on Sunday, June 25, 1950 the Church was flooded with water. There was four and one-half feet of water in the Church, which necessitated a move of church services until the church could be cleaned and the floors redressed. Church services were moved to the Horner Community Building for a few months.

The Churches served by the Weston East Circuit from 1944 to 1955 were: Smith's Run; Stone Coal; Horner; Valley Chapel; Hopewell; Georgetown; and Louisa Jane. In 2006 the Stone Coal Charge has only two churches Stone Coal United Methodist & Horner United Methodist.

In 1982, Roanoke United Methodist Church made a large donation to our church they had to close their church due to the building of the Stonewall Jackson Dam. 1982 – 1985 The educational addition, storage and a rest room were added to the church. Rev. Stephen White was our foreman in building the addition.

In 1987, New Sheetrock was put up in the sanctuary and new wanes coating was installed. In 1990 new white vinyl siding was installed. In 1991, New red carpet was installed. On Sept. 16, 1993, First Furnace was installed. In 1995 new vinyl windows were installed. In Nov. 95 the congregation was comfortable now since the pews were cushioned. In 1997 the parking lot was blacktopped

March 31, 2003 Julia Elizabeth Stalnaker Bragg donated 2.58 acres for additional parking. In 2003 the choir pews were stepped up. So now the choir members could be heard and seen better.

On March 8, 2004, construction work started for the Church Vestibule, special sound booth area and a classroom. In Aug. 2004 the church bought 3 signs for road side sign for Rt. 33 & Georgetown road!

On May 22, 2005 A covered-dish dinner and special evening dedication service for the vestibule, church sign, new hymnals, rest room, Christian & American flags were held. District Superintendent Rev. Schell & Reverend Verl Simmons conducted the service.

On Sunday, April 2, 2006, members of the Horner United Methodist Church went back in time to April 2, 1856. An 1856 service was held to start the celebration of their 150th anniversary. Horner Church was dedicated in the summer of 1856. Since members of the Horner United Methodist Church were celebrating their 150th anniversary they rolled back in time by wearing 1856 period clothing.

## Indian Camp UMC

In some of the record books kept by Clarence E. Huffman, previous church secretary, he indicated that his writings were kept "for the interest of future generations." That interest has been piqued by the members of the Indian Camp Church and community. His records, among others, have been reviewed for documentation and presentation to the Indian Camp Church and community. According to his records, Clarence E. Huffman was the conference secretary from 1938 to 1968. Clarence passed away July 26, 1987. While in his service, Clarence attended and recorded the quarterly and annual conference meetings. He also compiled a history of the Indian Camp Church, and what is related here is a rendition of his work.

The Indian Camp Church is referred to in the records by the title of Evangelical United Brethren Church of Indian Camp. Mr. Huffman indicates in his records that the Reverend Benjamin Stickley, then pastor of the Buckhannon Circuit of the United Brethren Church, organized the first society of Indian Camp in the year of 1854 in the home of Jonathan Cutright. There, he preached the spring previous to the time of the formal organization of the church. Services were held both in the home of Jonathan Cutright and under the Indian Camp rock when the weather permitted.

In the year 1863, C. Whitecotton from the French Creek Mission United Brethren Church preached under the Indian Camp rock also. This occurred two years before any class was organized and the original log church was built on the hill at Indian Camp in 1865. Available records indicate that Reverend S. J. Graham was the first minister to serve in the log church. He was also the first minister on the present Alton-Frenchton Evangelical United Brethren circuit. Records also show that Henry Bosley was the Sunday school leader and Philander Howes served as the class steward. Joseph Bosley, Melvina Pringle, Jemima Gould, and Matilda Westfall were probably assistants, stewards or church trustees; the records were not clear about their roles in the early church. These same records were signed by Reverend Graham as the presiding elder on February 26, 1865.

The activities of the church between the years of 1854 and 1865 are unknown because records from that time period cease to exist. Mr. Huffman stated that visiting ministers preached during that time because there did exist an old class book that showed attendance for that time period and the period prior to the erection of the first log church in 1865.

A list of attendees, presumably taken directly from the "old attendance book" by Mr. Huffman, showed that the following members were in regular attendance in the years of 1865 and 1866: Gabriel Bean, Henry Bosley, Philander P. Howes, Andrew Bean, Ellen bean, Sarah Bean, Elizabeth bean, Archibald bean, Henry Bean, Julia Bean, John W. Bean, Elizabeth M. Bean, Jane Bean, Mary Bosley, Thomas Bond, Ellen Norvall, Lothrop Phillips, Charlotte Phillips, Priscilla Bean, Eliza Gladwell, William Bean, John Howes, Andrew Howes, Cynthia Howes, Joseph Gould, Samantha Gould, Lois Gould, Jonathan Gould, Cisella Gould, Jane McCann, Roxanna MCCann, Mary Thrasher, Leucieba Burr, Watson Gould, Sarah Gladwell, Hiram Bean, Jane Fitzgerald, Almira Lucky, Eliza Lucky, Lucy Bosley, Susan bean, Elanor Bond, Masouri Bond, Amanda Johnson, Hester Bond, Louisa Burr and Robert Bosley.

A second revision to the attendance book for Sunday school appears to have been compiled February 17, 1867 by S.J. Westfall, P.C. of the French Creek E.U.B. Church. Class officers for the year of 1867 included Gabriel Bean, C.L., Henry Bosley, C.S., Philander Howes,

William Bean and Joseph Gould as trustees. The last three names are the first trustees known on record for the Indian Camp Church.

According to Mr. Huffman's writings that were based on the records from the church, the old log church stood from 1865 to 1889, and it was served by the following ministers: S.J. Graham 1865, S.T. Westfall 1867, C. Whitecotton 1868, J. W. Gilbert 1869, James F. Steven 1871, Isaa Davis 1873, J.C. Morris 1878, J. R. Kemper 1879, James A. Steven 1883, John Rexroad 1885, and William H. Albert 1885-6. 1889 proved to be an exciting year for the Indian Camp Church, because during that year, a frame building replaced the log church that stood on top of the hill. The frame church withstood until 1954, when the brick church that currently stands replaced it.

While in the frame church, the ministers who served the Indian camp congregation were as follows: George D. Holden 1889, G.Y Palmer 1891, F.N. Boyd 1893, H.B.B. Amos, 1895, R. Wood 1895, John T. Foster 1896, Lee Westfall 1905, R.M. Isner 1909, W.H. Scott 1911, L.R. Collins 1912, S.E. Boughman 1918, W.A. Lydick, O.H. Cook 1919, Forman Napier 1922, Everly Cutright 1924, S. R. Cutright 1924, P.S. Exline 1925, Arthur Stevens 1926, W.C. Dunson 1930, C.W. Scott 1937, manley Collins 1940, B.J. Lockhart 1946, Wallir Cain 1949, Charles Parish 1951, Lonnie Armentrout 1952, and in the new church, Freddie Luzader served in 1955 and Glen Black served as minister in 1956.

Under Reverand Lonnie Armentrout, a movement was started in the year of 1953 to replace the frame church at Indian Camp with a new building. Its location was intended to be the exact location of the old wooden building. The architect for the new building was Russell Smith, who was assisted by Raymond Hyre and Artsel Gillum. Also on the building board who were in charge of the construction were trustees: Forrest Bosley, Forest McCartney, Loat Newcome, Elbert Huffman, president of the board, Clarence E. Huffman, Secretary, Don O. Thomas, Treasurer, and Basil Bond.

In May, 1954, the old building was dismantled and a new brick building took its place. The brick church was completed in the summer and dedicated on Sunday, October 10, 1954. The West Virginia conference superintendent T.L. Miles directed the dedication ceremony. Other members that were present included Reverand C.D. Edman, Reverand Parker Kerans, Reverand Leslie Gillum, Reverand Cecil Dunson and Reverand Lonnie Armentrout. Also in attendance was eighty-nine year- old Watson Howes, a former sexton of the Indian Camp Church and son of Philander Howes, the first steward and one of the first trustees of the Indian Camp church.

The new building was erected with monetary gifts, donated materials and volunteered labor. The cost for the entire structure was a conservative \$12,000. \$1,072 was received in offerings during the dedication ceremony on October 10. By the closure of the dedication when the accounts were reviewed, the building board owed a meager \$2,500. The names and gifts of those who were able and willing to give toward the building of the new church follow. Some of the materials that were donated included the bricks, donated by Roy (Buck) Phillips. Three stained-glass windows, bearing the names, birth and death dates of Lina Newcome Smith, William P. Newcome, and Lothrop Phillips were donated by Florence MayNew. Three other stained-glass windows bearing the names, birth and death dates of Alexander Thomas, Theresa V. Thomas, and P.J.B. Simons were donated by Pearl Thomas Simons. The roof was a gift from Ora Cutright Morrison, a member of the church for fifty and more years. The lectern for the pulpit was made by Waitman T. Linger. In 1987, two Sunday school classrooms and a basement were added to the brick structure. In the basement, a gas furnace was also installed. Clarence

stated in his writings that these lists "would be useful for future generations who might be interested in the history of the Indian Camp Church."

Since the building of the church under the direction of Rev. Larry Armentrout, who presided over the charge from 1952 to 1955, there have been numerous pastors of the charge. The pastors who serviced the charge since then include: Fred Luzader (1955-1956), Glen Black (1950-1958), Rosco Rexroad (1958-1960), Lester Lane (1960-1963), Dennis Miller (1963-1965), Ronzel Roberts (1965-1966), S. E. Lewis (1966-1968), Donnie Wilfong (1968-1969), Merle Conrad (1969-1972), Dale Darnell and Robert Heavener (June and September, 1972), Randal Flanagan (1972-1976), James McCune (1976-1979), Thomas J. Bickerman (1979-1980), Daniel Kimble (1980-1983), Joseph Uphole (1983-1986), Verle Simmons (1986-1987), Gary Rapping (1987-1989), Marianna Harr (1989-1992), Etheldean Yanero (1992-1995), Ellen Carter (1995-1996), Orin Lloyd (1996-1997), David Hamrick (1997-2002), Calvin McCuthcheon (March 2002- June 2002), and Sue Lowther (2002- present). In 1969, the churches of this charge were united, and the name was changed from the Evangelical United Brethren of Indian Camp to Indian Camp United Methodist Church, and the charge was then referred to as the Wilsontown Charge instead of the Adrian Charge. The Wilsontown Charge includes the churches of Alton, Heaston Ridge, Indian Camp, Salem and Wilson Chapel.

With close congregational interaction with the pastor, Sue Lowther, the current church of Indian Camp has been active in many contributions to the Christian faith. It is the hope of the community that this interest to keep God's word alive and thriving in our generation is passed on to the next generation and those yet to come.

#### References:

1. Informal records kept by Clarence E. Huffman
2. Indian Camp Church record books including: attendance, membership, and conference records

historical data compiled by Cheryl Renee Cain 11/2006

## **Ireland United Methodist Church History**

The country village of Ireland, West Virginia is located in the central part of West Virginia. The first settlement was founded in 1827 by a family from the country of Ireland, thereby giving the village the name of Ireland.

We should hold in reverence our pioneer ancestors, along with the early ministers, who with much hardship, managed to have some sort of religious service. The first religious services in this locality were held in the pioneers' cabins. The first known minister, Henry Collins, from Collins Settlement visited the settlement in the early days and preached in the cabin homes. Regular preaching services were held possibly six times a year.

Later church services were held in the school house, often referred to as "church school". The first school house was built in the 1840's. A second school was built later and was used as a church, until a division of the people over the Civil War caused the building of a Northern and Southern Methodist Church. Feelings were strong over which side of the Civil War one agreed upon. Some families were divided, brother against brother.

In December 1890, a deed was made to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church North. A church was built and dedicated on September 20, 1891.



On September 9, 1892, a deed was made to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church South. A church was built and dedicated on October 21, 1894. The newer church building was larger than the older one. It may have been built for status purposes or optimistic anticipation of future needs. A report in the County Paper, dated July 20, 1906, stated: "The Southern M.E. Church, which had blown off of its foundation, was placed on a new foundation, and is almost as good as ever".

The two churches faced each other and were separated by the county road and a creek. Separate services were held in each church and anyone standing outside could hear the speaking and singing from both churches at the same time. The only attendance record that could be found showed that 28 members attended a quarterly conference for the M.E. Church South in 1935 or 1936.

In 1939, the churches united and became the Ireland United Methodist Church. At the time of the consolidation, each church had an average attendance of 12 people. One member of the present congregation vividly remembers the day of the vote to unite the churches. For a while, services were held six months in each church.

Around 1946, the M. E. Church, South was sold and torn down. The Chancellor was moved to the M. E. Church North and is still in use today.

The church was raised, a basement was built, and a furnace was installed during the years of 1947 through 1948. Stained glass windows were installed in 1950. Bathrooms were installed in 1983. An outdoor chapel (gazebo) was built on the site of the M. E. Church South in 1991.

On November 9, 1999 the Ireland Methodist Church was moved across the West Fork River and up on a hill to its present location. A new basement was built under the church, and a meeting room and kitchen were added. A dedication was held on August 13, 2000.

In remembering the church's past history, two human interest items come to mind. One is about the custodian of the M. E. Church North. She was the most dedicated person in the church and for years walked one mile each way from her home to clean and take care of the church. For many years, she built a wood fire to heat the church. In the winter when the revival was being held, she would go twice a day as there would a morning 10:00 service and an evening 7:00 service. Rain, hail, night or day did not stop her. When she was in her late seventies, on her way to Sunday Service, she fell and broke her hip, and that was the end of her caretaking career. Her pay was \$1.00 to \$3.00 a month.

The other story is about the school house. The school building was located beside the churches, and, whenever there was a morning revival, all

of the children would attend. Needless to say, the revival was a very much looked forward to event by all of the children.

Today the church is quite active and has an average attendance of 50 people attending the regular service. It is still a charge church with the minister having five churches to service. Sunday school is held every Sunday, and the minister holds service the first and third Sundays of each month.

Information obtained from :

The Community of Ireland, West Virginia by Cly Reger.

History of Walkersville by Clark Sprigg

Dedication of The Ireland Methodist Church Programs

Information prepared by Betty Crawford Heavner

## **Jerry Run United Methodist Church**

Former names of church, if any:      None

Date of organization:                      June 6, 1954

Organizing pastor:                         Ralph McCoy and Austin Ayres

Any important details surrounding the organization (a new congregation, sponsoring congregation, costs)

The church members and neighbors donated the materials and labor for the construction of the church. The Webster Echo reports the first service was held at the Jerry Run school house in 1911.

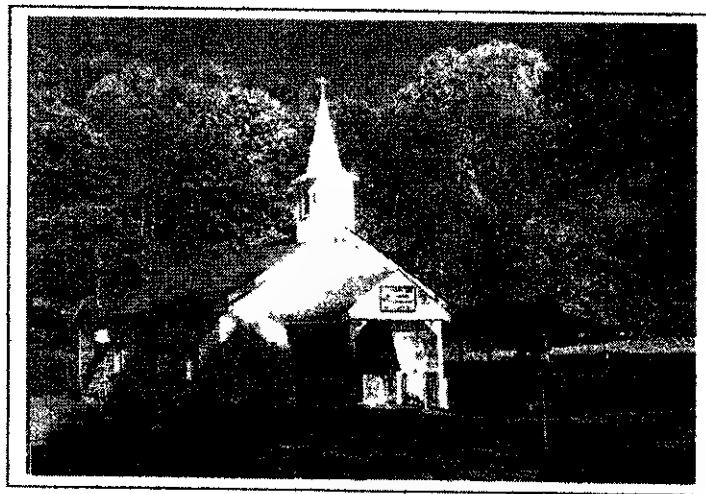
Has anyone from your church or area entered the ordained or diaconal Ministry?

No

Are any deceased clergy buried in your area?      Rev. Charles W. Pugh (1890-1972)  
Rev. Erasmus S. Pugh (1858-1941)

List families associated with the first church at this location: Anderson, Barbe, Dever, Fisher, Cutlip, Malcomb and Pugh

Family names of present congregation: Fisher, Anderson, Cowger, Miller, Chipps, Jordan and Riley



## **History of the Jerusalem United Methodist Church Adolph Road**

This is not the temple that Solomon built, but the house Rev. Stephen Morgan built in Randolph County. He organized the class or society in a log school house after a successful revival in 1890. After years of Worship and successions of revivals the people began to see the need of a church which was later built where now is the present house of Worship. Which was dedicated in 1907 by W. T. Bosley Pastor? The Cutrights Bobb and Perry Families were prominent in the organization of this church class. Among the present membership of one hundred. The Gear and McCollom families are prominent leaders. The Haney and Zirckles Families are active workers in the church also.

It was in this year the little band of Christian members were still moving along, who had been so faithful in working for the Lord after the Methodist Protestant Church Class had been organized, in an old log school house. The committee was formed and volunteered to start to build a church for to carry on the great work which had just been carrying on in the old log school house. So the following members of said church took the burden on their shoulders and said with Gods help we are marching on. "Namely" Old Uncle Perry Cutright, as he was known by Bobbie Cutright, Elbert Fortney, and others. We see their name appear in very important facts as this story reads on. The corner stone's were started and the building of the Church known now as Jerusalem United Methodist Church was begun. Well the sound of hammers and saws were being heard with great inthusasium and thankful hearts running over with joy. Jim Billy Shreve put on the first strip of roofing paper. Jim McCollam built the flue with help of Elbert Fortney and I. F. McCollam. Some put on weatherboarding and others help with each task with glad hearts. Well we have come to windows. They could not decide how they were going to get them at this time. The women's society of Christian service began to function or Ladies Aid as it is still known today. Sister Jettie Currence said she would buy one window which was followed by Mrs. Charles Daniels, Mozzella Shiflett, Susan Fortney, Nanie McCollam, Harriet Cutright and old aunt Vernie Cutright. They wanted it to be known that the women did their share. Ben Perry wanted doors one on one side of the building and Bobbie Cutright wanted one on the other side. In order to not have discord they put one n each side.

The dedication of the church was done by the Rev. W. T. Bosley and E. E. Shifletts choir done the singing. That year 1907 the Jerusalem Methodist Protestant Church was dedicated. Nothing more was done to the churches building until 1936-1937 when the erecting of the vestibule, bell and ceiling and new flooring were done.

In 1951 the church added a new 2 rooms for Sunday school on the back side of the church.

Latter a fellowship hall was erected behind the church.

982  
Wellsville, N. Y.

July 18, 1907.

Dear Brother and Sister:

How swiftly the time glides by, and what changes attend us! It seems but a few days since I was engaged in that meeting at the school house, but it is more than a year, and the year has been a pretty busy one to me. I have worked up to the limit. I have done about all I could. I was pretty well used up this spring, but I am better now. I am engaged in a revival. It is a terribly good one, considering everything. Several of the converts were baptized last Sunday. We expect others to be baptized next Sunday. Praise the Lord.

I have been holding meetings most of the time since I came home. I hope you are flourishing in Spiritual and Temporal affairs. I have no doubt you are fervent in the service of the blessed Saviour, and hope to meet you in Glory—and I hope to meet you again on earth. I do not know when I shall get down that way again, but I hope, and shall endeavor to see you all again.

Allow me once more to entreat you to make salvation the business of your life. Live for God and Heaven. Everything else will come to nothing. Do not fail to pray. Jesus will come for you if you trust in Him. Bless His Holy Name forever.

Of course you will have trials. Everybody has trials. But our Saviour will sustain us. Trials work out our good. They strengthen us, and increase our capabilities. Do not fail to pray. Prayer is the power of the christian life. The greatest work that man has ever accomplished has been wrought by prayer. It is ~~the~~ the most powerful instrument that God has placed in the hands of man. I trust you will pray for me. There is much that I wish to do. Something has affected my hand, and it has become difficult for me to write. It has troubled me some months. It may be writers cramp, and it may be failure of nerve force.

Suppose you have meeting in the new church now. You must write and tell me how things are moving. Tell me about all the people at Jerusalem and Mill Creek.

Kiss baby for me. She must toddle around lively now.

Remember me to Bro. Shreve and family, and to all the friends and brethren. Give my regards to Bro. Nicholson.

Do not fail to write as soon as convenient.

With sincere wishes for your present and your eternal welfare,  
I am truly your friend and brother.

A. D. Bessey  
Wellsville, N.Y.

4 of a letter written to Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Poling  
uring the time of building the Jerusalem  
church. The little girl mentioned of was  
Mrs. Mabel Riffle who at this time is 77yrs of age.

## **History of Kynette United Methodist Church**

The current church was built in 1909. Kynette was originally on the Junior Charge with Calvary and Bethel churches in Junior, but was later changed to the Elkins East Charge with Wayside. We have had 60 ministers since 1909; all of these ministers were men except for one, in 2001. At the present time we have a membership of 60 and an attendance of approximately 20-30 per Sunday.

The church has hosted many weddings and fellowship events. Sadly we have also hosted many funerals and memorial services. We have had many revivals and sings with some well known groups as well as local talent. We have a homecoming every year in September with a picnic and a service following with the picnic with a sermon, singing and a reading of the church history.

At one time we had a very active youth attendance. We had pizza parties, IAH club, plays, puppet ministry, vacation bible school and also a youth choir that traveled to other churches to sing. They also made sunshine baskets for the sick and elderly and went Christmas caroling.

We also have had a very active Women's Society, which has done a lot for the church and the community. We have made Food Baskets for the needy as well as given money to families in need. The Women's Society has had many fund raisers and published two cookbooks. With the money raised, we have covered the pews to make them more comfortable and helped purchase the piano.

In 1998 one of our members passed away and donated \$2,000.00 to the church for the purpose of starting a fellowship hall. This project began in 1999 and our fellowship hall was completed in 2000. When the fellowship hall was completed it was free and clear. We were fortunate enough to have members with the knowledge and skills needed to complete this project along with donations from the members and the community. Since the fellowship has been completed we have been holding our Women's Society meetings there along with many dinners, fund raisers, vacation bible school, receptions, birthday parties and have also held church when the church was out of heating fuel.

In the last few years we have also had a Men's Group that has cleared property given to us by the Antolini's for additional parking, made another entrance into the church for easier access in the winter, assisted with the chicken barbecue fund raisers and making a flower bed along with the completion of the fellowship hall.

Prior to building the fellowship hall the women held there monthly meeting's at a different women's house, but once the fellowship hall was completed we began having our meetings there for easier access for our aging members.

Prepared by Rose Shreve and Carol Edmond

**Little Otter UMC Church of Gassaway, WV**  
(Methodist Episcopal Church South)

Until 1907 both Catholics and Protestants used the Davis Grade school building as a place of public worship, but in the year 1908 two Methodist churches were erected. As early as November 1904 the M.E. Church purchased a lot, South from the Gassaway Development Company.

Reverend G. W. McClung was the pastor of the new organization, and the charter members were E.V. Frame and wife, R.E.L. Lloyd and wife, W.M. Funk and wife, C.G. Perkins and wife, Delia E Kalbaugh, Eulan James, Blanche James, Emma James, Emma Daugherty, Martha Ables, Rebecca F. Jones, Everett Levisay, Erchie Pierson and wife, Mamie Layman, Ada Pierson, Ruby Mae Rollyson, Mary Gerwig, Holly Leta, Floyd W. Dick, Venia Stewart, Mrs. M.L. Lloyd, Elizabeth Lloyd, Blanche Ables, Helen Kalbaugh, Mrs. H.C. Isenhardt, Mrs. Nanie Funk, Mrs. C.D. Moist, M.C. Watkins, and F.A. Watkins.

The contract for the building of the church was awarded in 1907 to the Funk Brothers, and August 1908 the church was dedicated at an approximate cost of \$6,000. Reverend H.A. Spencer was the pastor.

This church had a very alert Woman's Missionary Society, and the Sunday school was active under the various superintendents and teachers. The church membership was 154.

The early preachers were G.W. McClung, H.A. Spencer, O.T. Headley, J.A. Siceloff, C.B. Morris O.E. Thorne, H.H. Pownall, A.P. Keyser, R.J. Yoak, W.L. Reid, C.D. Lear, and J.N. Herold.



## LLOYDSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There was a church organized at the home of Isaac Hyer Lloyd prior to 1893, perhaps as early as the 1840s. There were six members, who were soon joined by five more. People came long distances and later a school house was built in the community, and services were held for some time in the school building.

In 1893 a lot was bought of J.L. Lloyd and wife and conveyed to the trustees, Harvey C. Hyer, E.B. Lloyd, L.M. Hopkins, H.E. Engle and F.F. Shaver. The church was built by Isaac Engle, an excellent builder who understood acoustics, and was particular to build so that sound would carry well. It was a large undertaking for a small farming community, and materials and money were given by the people. It is good to know that they were willing to sacrifice in order to have a house of worship for themselves and their children. The church was dedicated on Christmas Day 1893.

Timber was cut on E.B. Lloyd farm and made into flooring. Cornelius Lloyd, who owned timber in Walnut Hollow and was adept with a froe, made and gave the shingles for the roof. Isaac Hyer Lloyd's widow gave a \$20.00 gold piece, which was a large gift in those days, especially for a widow. We know of these, and there were many others.

Henry Evert Engle was an excellent song leader and composed many fine songs which appear in modern song books and are sung with pleasure. He had published at one time, a small book of songs which he had written. He often gave the people instruction in music and in singing from the hymnal.

Other outstanding and supportive members of the church over the years include: Lucian M. Hopkins who walked across the hill from his home on Venison Run and seldom missed a service; Mr. and Mrs. Lester Shaver, of Eubank Run, brought their family to church regularly in a two-seated buggy, and he served as Sunday School Superintendent and song leader for several years; Mr. and Mrs. Victor Lloyd lived near the church and always served in some leadership capacity.

The acquisition of an Epworth organ for the church was an important thing to the young people of the community. We do not know exactly when it was bought, but certainly not a great while after the church was dedicated. We know that several of Isaac and Catherine Lloyd's grand-daughters played the organ for church services.

About 1940 a collection was taken to buy a piano, and a grand piano was purchased. Catherine Lloyd, went in a truck to Clarksburg and bought it. It had been cared for by her mother. It was played by two great-grand-daughters of Isaac and Catherine Lloyd, Olive Lloyd and Naomi now plays another piano which was purchased in the spring 1993.

In 1983 the vestibule was torn down and a hallway with classrooms constructed on the front of the church. It was dedicated on December 4, 1983, by Rev. James H. [unclear], the District Superintendent.

Most of the attendance of the church today (1993), are the descendants of the original Lloyd family who in 1893 saw the need for a place of worship.

## HISTORY OF MILL CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Tygart River Lumber Company, owned by H. C. Newbury and J. H. Babb came to Mill Creek in 1903.

The only church in Mill Creek was the Southern Methodist which was used for a hospital during the Civil War. Most of the congregation were Democrats and held to the south.

Mr. Newbury and Mr. Babb being Republicans and believed in the North, decided to have a Northern Methodist Church. Through their efforts the Mill Creek United Methodist Church had its beginning.

Bill Tolbart skidded the logs up Mill Creek and they were brought down to the town of Mill Creek on the log train. They were sawed into lumber for the new church which was erected in the year of 1904.

The following deed for the church was copied from the records in the Randolph County Court House.

This deed made this 28th day of January 1904 between Wirt C. Ward and Rose Ward, his wife of the 1st. part and I. P. Russell, H. C. Newbury, J. H. Babb, E. W. Lewis and H. J. Ballah, trustees of 2nd part, all in the County of Randolph in the State of W.Va. Paid \$100.00 cash in hand by trustees and their successors in office, for use and benefit of ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, subjected to the discipline, useage and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared and if sold the proceeds shall be disposed of and used in accordance with provisions of said discipline.

The lot contains 10,374 square feet.

After the completion of the church L. E. Schull donated the pulpit, minister's chairs, and altar table, which are still being used.

In the early days of the church, the Southern Methodists and the Northern Methodists worked well together. Up until the early thirties Sunday School was in the morning at the Southern Methodist Church and in the afternoon at the Northern Methodist Church, thus allowing both congregations to attend each service. Evening services were alternated to serve the same purpose.

During this time the parsonage for the Southern Methodist was in Mill Creek. The Northern Methodist parsonage was in Beverly with ministers commuting first by train and later by automobile. The ministers serving the Northern Methodist Church and living in the Beverly parsonage, as well as can be remembered were :

Rev. E. C. Bedford about 1912

Rev. P. L. Bent about 1918

(remembered especially for his outstanding revival with

Rev. Artie F. Shomo 1925  
 Rev. E. O. Elkins 1929  
 Rev. Rennick 1935  
 Rev. Frank Johnson 1937  
 (who for some reason lived in Durbin).  
 Rev. E. B. Ware came in 1939.  
 Rev. Frank Sampson 1941-1944  
 Rev. Charles W. Pugh 1945-1953

It was during Rev. Ware's ministry that the unification of the Southern and Northern Methodist Churches took place. Rev. Ware was sent to the Southern Methodist Church as minister knowing that the two churches were about to be united. Rev. Ware had formerly served the Southern Methodist Church in 1922-1924 and was very well liked. He was also born and raised in this county. Therefore the Conference felt that Rev. Ware would be the logical minister to be on hand during the transition of the two churches. He served us well through the struggle of unification.

At this time the Southern Methodist Parsonage in which Rev. Ware lived became the parsonage for the Mill Creek Charge.

Rev. Frank Sampson served as minister in 1941-1944.

Rev. Charles Pugh followed Rev. Sampson, 1945-1953. By this time the church was not large enough to take care of the space needed for Sunday School. Plans were being made for an addition to the church. New rooms were constructed to the sanctuary in 1948. This consisted of a kitchen, 6 Sunday School rooms and a nursery. These rooms were dedicated May 20, 1951, by the Dr. Ross Culpepper, official officer of the District Board of Church Location and Buildings, and the Pastor, Rev. Charles W. Pugh.

Also during Rev. Pugh's ministry the Mill Creek Parsonage was completely destroyed by fire in Feb. 1949. All church records were lost in this fire. In the fall of 1949 the Mill Creek Charge bought the Cecil Crickard property which was later remodeled and is still serving the charge as a parsonage.

Since 1953 the following ministers have served the Mill Creek Charge:

Rev. Darrell E. Jett	1953-1957
Rev. Arnold Bickle	1957-1962
Rev. Gilbert Hart	1962-19
Rev. Shelton Workman	1964-1966
Rev. Herman Ross	1966-1968
Rev. Richard Miller	1968-1969
Rev. Hobert Prunty	1969-1971
Rev. Samuel Butcher	1971-

In the year 1968 the Galen Gilmore family donated the electric organ now being used. This organ was presented while the Gilmore

in care of Mrs. O. R. Corley. This money was then used to purchase the organ.

The church was first heated with 2 pot belly stoves, one on each side of the church. When the addition was added in 1948 a coal furnace was installed. In the fall of 1972 the church was insulated and converted to electric heat.

In 1973 the sanctuary ceiling was lowered and new florescent lights were installed by Mr. John Liggett Sutton in memory of his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Sutton.

Due to the loss of the church records in the parsonage fire, this history has been compiled by consulting Mervin R. Chaney, Carrie Kemp, Jeanie Brock, Wilda Hise and other members of the church.

Other ministers that served this charge are

Rev. Denny Franks	
Rev. Earnest Schneider	
Rev. Reginald Thomas	1986-1988
Rev. Verl Simmons	1988-1990

## **MT. EARNEST CHURCH (TROY CHARGE) HISTORY**

### **CONINGS COMMUNITY—GILMER COUNTY**

We were first organized as Mt. Earnest Episcopal Methodist Church in a log school in 1895. Circuit riders would show up from time to time, sometimes preaching funerals well after the burial.

A new church was built on a hill beside the cemetery. All money was free will offerings and the work was donated by the people.

First trustees were Lewis Law, Dolphus Bent, & Cratan Belt. Benches made by Jack Frymier, podium/lectern built by Merrill Brannon and large Bible donated by Mrs. W. W. Rymer George Bent delivered the dedication address in 1895. The first minister was John Matheny.

The church was active and grew through the years. A revival was held in early 1924 that brought several lost souls to Christ. The Youth were organized after 1924 with different names through the years, those being Christian Society, Christian Endeavor, Methodist Youth Fellowship and United Methodist Youth Fellowship. We have been blessed with strong youth and good Christian leaders.

The church became part of Troy Charge in 1900. Since Troy is the most central location on the charge and on the main road the parsonage was built there.

In 1931 a new highway was built leaving the church stranded on the hill. Rev. Don Nicholas came to our church, conducted a revival and added several new members. It was through his leadership that the church was moved to its present location.

Three sites were looked at for consideration. The one selected was where the Conings School stood because it already had a water well and wouldn't take as much work to level the bank to put a basement under the church.

Church members and community people donated their teams of horses and time. They worked every weekend and evenings until the site was ready for the church.

The old church was torn down and moved. The front was moved in one piece, a double door was put in the center instead of two separate doors. The pulpit was built straight across the front. A new tin roof was put on, and a tongue and groove joint floor was added. Gas lights replaced the oil lamps. The Redemption Church was torn down in early 1930 and its bell was donated to Mt. Earnest since it was louder and better sounding when compared to the original.

The Sunday school was organized in 1932 and is growing since. Some winter months the services would be held in the afternoons.

In 1940 the Ladies Aid was reorganized and known as the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). There were 16 members. The women have contributed many things through the years such as cement for the basement floor and their husbands ran it in 4x6 foot squares as the money became available. The original floor was sawdust. Cold water was run into the basement, a sink and stove donated, and lumber purchased for the men to build cabinets and long tables for the basement. Green carnival glass and silverware were purchased. Money was raised to paint the outside of the church and to purchase an electric light for the outside, and a heating stove for upstairs.

In 1942 the women quilted two quilts they sold for \$1.50 and \$2.00 which was used to purchase a hotplate for the basement.

In 1943 we started to fix boxes for the poor and disabled which we continue to carry out at Christmas time for the old and shut-in people of the community.

In 1944 the WSCS started paying on the preacher's salary and continued until 1970. We also started a Flower Fund and sent cards to sick people which are still done today. We bought a new lawnmower, curtains for the basement, and paid the insurance. We also wrote letters to service men during Word War II.

Starting in 1948, the floor has been sanded and refinished twice, blinds were purchased-three at a time as money was available. In 1950, the basement was painted and coffee mugs purchased.

Beginning in 1955 through 2003, Methodist Hymnals have been purchased three times.

In 1956 a cross with a crucifix was added to the outside and lit up on Saturday nights.

In 1960, new storm windows were added, roof replaced and a new sign.

In 1969 we became The United Methodist Church. In 1972, WSCS was changed to United Methodist Women.

In 1970 our church took on several projects and with God's help they were all completed and paid for within the time it took to complete each project. The church was painted inside and out, paneling in the basement, bathroom added, Sunday School room, partition for the kitchen, new basement curtains, coat rack, canopy for outside of basement, new walk and steps at front of church, new lights for upstairs, additional wiring, new carpet for pulpit area, new vestibule for front of church, and new lighted announcement sign.

In the 1980's siding was purchased, new oak pews, and communion table, piano, communion set, cross, candle holders, and vases, ceiling fans, bookcases and books.\

In 1991, a patio was built and furniture purchased.

A choir was organized with choir robes donated by a church in Charleston.

We have no community building making the church the center for community life. Meetings here have been 4-H, Extension Homemakers, Senior Citizens, showers for babies and weddings and birthday celebrations.

We continue to hold Bible Study, Prayer meetings, Bible School, Fellowship dinners, Sings, making of homemade ice cream, and Christmas Programs. The Sunday school picnic is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August.

The Activities Committee plans an activity each month. We have been to Washington D.C., Passion Play in Ohio, and Pittsburgh Zoo.

We continue to praise God for His goodness and blessing us with good Christian leaders and ministers and providing us with the money needed to keep our church in good repair. We praise God for our good fortune. Our present Pastor is Alan Neal, a man truly sent by God.

## **HISTORY OF THE MT. WASHINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### **IN BUCKHANNON, UPSHUR COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

The Mt. Washington United Brethren in Christ Church in the Buckhannon Ministerial District, was organized in the year 1847, which was also the year Upshur county was formed. The church was first organized by Rev. John Haney. Other ministers helping were Benjamin Sickley, Brachear, J.K. Statin, and Isaiah Baltzel. The first members of the organization were William Dunbar, Soloman and Elizabeth Reese, Samuel and Caroline Dunbar Reese, David Reese and Jonathan Reese.

The first church built at Mt. Washington was a log structure built on land later deeded to the United Brethren Church by Elizabeth A. and E.G. Burr Rollins, on May 18, 1854, and recorded 1865 Deed Book E, page 310. The church was named after George Washington since it was dedicated on February 22, and the wife of David Reese, Clara Dunbar Reese, picked this name. This log church was destroyed by fire and replaced by a frame building in 1879. This new building was dedicated on August 15, 1880.

It remained the Mt. Washington United Brethren church until 1936, when the untied Brethren merged with the Evangelical Church and it became the Mt. Washington Evangelical United Brethren Church. The name would change again in 1969 when the Evangelical United Brethren church merged with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church.

Many good ministers have gone out from this church and may other good men and women have been converted in this place of worship.

We have descendants of the founders of the church who aware active in the church at the present time, and the church has begun to see a rebirth, with attendance up, and several children attending, continuing the work of God that began in all the way back in 1847.

## Mount Zion United Methodist Church

Former names of church, if any:      None

Date of organization:                      1893

Organizing pastor:                        J. D. Stalnaker

Any important details surrounding the organization (a new congregation, sponsoring congregation, costs)

Church blew over hill and salvaged materials were used along with new material for reconstruction. The new building was dedicated in 1932.

Has anyone from your church or area entered the ordained or diaconal Ministry?

Lantz Anderson, Mont Anderson and Frantz Casto

Are any deceased clergy buried in your area?      Lantz Anderson

List families associated with the first church at this location: Anderson, Ash, Brown, Hinkle, Berry, Helmick, Casto

Family names of present congregation: Anderson, Lowther, Gum, Mallette, Mollohan, VanNostrand and Gillespie





## HISTORY OF THE OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Baldwin, WV

In the beginning, in April of the year 1878, J.W. Miles deeded the land for the church to Trustees Peter and John Messenger and James Carson. The first church was made of logs. The present church was built in 1891. It was dedicated in November of that year. In 1915, two Sunday school rooms were added.

On November 16, 1946 the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the church was so named. In 1968 the EUB Church became the United Methodist Church as a result of the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Churches.

New floors were laid, sanded and varnished in 1956, and the ceiling in the sanctuary was lowered. The bell tower was in poor condition in 1965; preparations were made to replace it with a new one, along with adding a new room, steps and porch. New double doors were hung. Dedication of the new addition and rededication of the church was held in September of 1967. In 1967 and 1968, the WSWs purchased 50 new hymnals and paid for the materials to underpin the church. In May of 1968, it was voted to retain the name of Oak Grove, making the official name, Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

Over the next few years, revivals and Bible schools were held, some members moved away to obtain jobs, and a few new faces arrived. In 1979, the men began work on the new partition and the church women collected clothing for the needy. In 1981 a new furnace was installed; new carpet and new pews were also installed. The church pews were made by a man in Belington. In 1983, the dropped ceiling was put in and paneling was put on the walls.

In 1984, 50 new hymnals were donated by a family in the church. In 1986 a new cross was put on the bell tower and in 1990 a new cement walk was made. A handicap ramp was installed in 1991.

In 2002 new draperies were purchased and hung. In 2005, through the generous contributions of community families and donations of other parties, new double paned windows were installed, vinyl siding replaced the deteriorating wood siding, and a railing was installed on the porch. Also in 2005, Betty Woofler had the Methodist Cross and Flame emblem constructed and installed on the outside of the church in memory of her late husband, Joe Woofler.

At this writing, in September of 2006, under the guidance of our Great Lord and Master, and our wonderful pastor, Rev. Hugh Murphy, work continues to upgrade the appearance of the church. Our prayers and efforts are to bring more people to worship with us.

## **Orlena United Methodist Church**

Orlena United Methodist Church is a vital and healthy congregation located in the unincorporated community of Gilman, Randolph County, WV. The church is located on Old Route 219 just outside the County Seat, Elkins, WV.

Prior to the Civil War, a group of faithful Christians began holding services in a log building owned by H.G. Davis, they called the church Hinkle Chapel. Davis went on to become the first Governor of West Virginia when the State seceded from the Union in 1860.

In 1889, the congregation moved to the Western Maryland Freight Station in Leadsville, an adjacent community. Then in 1891 an acre of land was donated to the congregation. And as they say, "the rest is history".

On February 22, 1891 ground was broken for a permanent church home. A local sawmill donated the timber and the members built the one room structure. This new church was named, "Orlena Methodist" in honor of the land donor's daughter.

Services were moved to this facility during the later part of 1891. Leadership was shared by a Circuit Rider, Class Leader and Sunday School Superintendent. This organization structure remained in place until 1995.

During the early years of the church, Gilman was a thriving village. There was a band mill, dimension mill, two general stores, post office, railroad freight station and a grist mill. The community and church thrived together.

Then in 1909, the band mill closed. The dimension mill then closed. Following World War I, the post office, freight station and grist mill closed.

Like many once prosperous villages, Gilman became just another name along a paved highway that carried motor traffic to a larger center.

Church attendance declined gradually through the Great Depression.

During this dark period, Orlena's faith was tested. But the faithful fifteen who remained believed God was calling them to be the church in this time and place, so, they carried on in the Name of Jesus Christ.

A strong work ethic, spirit, prayer and music carried them through. Over the next 55 years, the Church increased and declined along with the economic climate of the community. But, there always seemed to be one or two families willing to do whatever it took to keep the Church going. Thank God they did. More land was donated, additions to the building were completed, Sunday School Classes taught, and God was worshipped through good times and bad.

In 1995, the Church Council decided that if Orlena was going to continue to answer God's call to be "The Church", then some changes needed to be implemented. The first change was Worship Services would be offered every week at the 11:00 hour. Then, an invitation and hospitality ministry was started. The mission and ministry of Orlena now extends beyond the Community of Gilman. A commitment was made for Orlena to be a safe and welcoming place where children could come to hear the stories of Jesus. The church then became racially integrated. A prayer and healing ministry was added. A new Fellowship Hall was built and Sunday School classrooms completed. Sacraments are celebrated on a regular basis and God's grace is at the heart of our life together.

Never forgetting her roots, Orlena continues to have a strong outreach program in the Gilman Community.

Today, Orlena is an intergenerational worshipping community. Our membership is 102; average worship attendance is 65, 20 of which are children. The average age of an Orlena member is 45. Many new families with children have joined our fellowship recently.

Over the past nine years, Orlena has helped train four men and one woman exploring God's call to ministry. One now serves the Annual Conference as a Full Elder, one a full time local Pastor, one a part-time local Pastor, and one is completing her course work to become a Deacon.

A new Corridor Highway System is under construction. The first exit is Gilman. The first Church off that exit is Orlena United Methodist Church.

The people of God, who call Orlena United Methodist Church home, are diligent in discerning themselves God's call, willing to change as God directs and willing to accept all who enter.

With God's help, Orlena will continue to make disciples in Christ.

## HISTORY OF THE OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The first church was built by Billy Schoonover on his land and on the present church site. The first church was made of poles with cracks caulked with mud and there were no floors in the building. Wooden pegs in the wall were used to hang lanterns for night services.

In just a few years this little church burned and Mr. Schoonover replaced it with a larger log church. Logs for this church were hewn from popular trees and placed so closely together no caulking was needed. Two burnside stoves were used to heat the building and lanterns still provided light for the evening services. Mr. Schoonover sold his farm and moved away and in 1851 R.R. Floyd and his wife, Martha deeded the church and lot to the United Brethren in Christ. Reverend John Haney was the first pastor. In 1880 the church was sealed with lumber and weather-boarded, but it still had the old clapboard roof.

In the fall of 1913 the church building burned, caused by sparks falling on the old clapboard roof. It was approximately one and one-half years before the new church was completed. The church was again rebuilt on the same site and dedicated on May 30, 1915 while I.D.S. Cross was pastor.

From 1941 to 1958 several improvements were made including new windows, electric wiring, gas plumbing, new aluminum roof, shingles on the exterior, sanded floors and new sidewalks. On November 16, 1946 the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. From 1956 through 1966 new pews, a new vestibule, a full basement and a bathroom were added to the church. A dedication was held on September 4, 1966 for the new improvements on the church. The trustees at that time were Teddy Peters, Howard Moffett and Mary Shaver. In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church became the United Methodist church as a result of the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist churches.

On March 23, 1980 the church again burned. This time according to the fire marshall, it was definitely arson and the church was completely destroyed. The church was again rebuilt, this time the outside structure of cement blocks covered with bricks. A bell tower and a full basement with a complete kitchen were also added. The bell for the tower was donated by James Frashure. The first service in the new church was held on Sunday November 2, 1980. Reverend Timothy Webb was pastor at this time. In 1983 air conditioning was added and a fence was installed in the front section of the cemetery. On September 5, 1985 the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 105 of Glenville donated their section of Otterbein cemetery to the church for \$1.00 and a deed was made to the Otterbein Church. On September 18, 1986 the driveway to the church was paved. The wooded cross that hangs in the sanctuary of the church was made and donated by George Ellyson of Glenville in July 1991.

Trustees at the present time are Mary Shaver, Lulah Moore and Alice Murphy.

## THE HISTORY OF OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The history of the Otterbein United Methodist Church began more than 100 years ago in 1899 as the United Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. V.J. Taylor. The church building was erected in 1907 with Rev. S.A. Shanabarger as pastor.

In November, 1946, at Johnstown, PA, the General Conference of the United Brethren and Evangelical Churches approved the union of two denominations and the two became the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In the fall of 1948, a new site was purchased at the corner of South Davis Avenue and Eleventh Street.

On Sunday, September 24, 1950 ground was broken for the new house of worship. After a hard winter, construction was resumed on April 15, 1951. On Sunday, July 1, 1951, the Rev. T.L. Miles of Parkersburg, conference Superintendent, presided at the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone.

On September 2, 1951, the congregation moved into the partially completed building at the present location for the first service of worship. The congregation met at the old church on Davis Street and then marched together to the new church building, singing all the way. On Sunday, May 4, 1952, the Rev. David T. Gregory, Bishop of the East Central area preached.

In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church and became the Otterbein United Methodist Church. Rev. Donald Lockhart was pastor of the church at the time of this union and continued until 1981.

The steeple on the church was erected on April 4, 1982. Under the leadership of various ministers, several changes have been made in the owning of property and the ministry of the different organizations within the church. Extensive remodeling has been done to the Sunday School rooms. The front steps leading from the sidewalk, railing, shrubbery were installed and the church Fellowship Hall took on new vitality with the installation of new floor tile, chair rail, painting, drapes, pictures and tribute to Nira Sutton and other décor in October of 2001. Church air-conditioning is being planned for the spring of 2002.

The Otterbein U.M.C. continues to be an active church in the Elkins area.

### Minister who have served at Otterbein U.M.C.

Rev. Troy R. Brady: 1945-1952	Rev. Donald Lockhart: 1966-1981
Rev. Harry Miller: Summer of 1952 when Rev. Brady resigned to become President of Shenandoah College	Rev. Irvin Conner: 1981 to Jan. 1984
Rev. G.W. Simpson: 1952-1956	Rev. Timothy Bias: Jan. 1984-June 1988
Rev. Walter Cain: 1956-1959	Rev. Doyle Payne: 1988-1993
Rev. Howard Wilfong: 1959-1960	Rev. Harold Backus: 1993-1996
Rev. Donald Lockhart: 1960-1962	Rev. James Burdette: 1996-1999
Rev. Eugene Garlow: 1962-1964	Rev. Mike Evans: 1999-Sept. 2000
Rev. Leon Rhodes: 1964-1965	Rev. Arden Beck: Sept. 2000-June 2001
Rev. O.H. Carter: Filled in until Conference 1966.	Rev. Leon H. Hevener: June 2001- 2007

### Parsons who have answered the call to ministry from Otterbein U.M.C.

Beryl Lockhart, Dale Stalnaker, Brown Bartlett, Durwood Poling, Harry Koontz, Bill Angel, Lois Kessler, Violet Reynolds, Dick Call, Mark Fisher, Judy Fisher, Harold Langevin

## THE HISTORY OF PHILLIPS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On Sunday, June 2, 1945, Rev. Meade Gutshall asked Ray Loudin to go with him to Jintown for a service. During that service Meade was led to say that a church was badly needed in the community. On June 16, 1945, a revival was held and over 40 people accepted the Lord. The new congregation worshipped outdoors in a grove each Sunday afternoon at 2:30 pm. On July 15, 1945, pledges were taken for church building. Phillips Chapel was officially organized as a church the following Sunday, July 22, when Rev. Frank Simpson held a baptismal service at Big Laurel Creek. A total of 17 people joined the church by profession of faith.

The congregation would worship in the home of Fred and Gladys Elmore during bad weather and then move back to the grove. The West Virginia Coal and Coke Company sold to Phillips Chapel Church the land for the church and the grove for the sum of \$1.00. The first load of blocks was delivered on July 3, 1947. Rev. Meade Gutshall served as the pastor until September 14, 1948 when he was assigned to the Ellamore charge. The church was formally dedicated on August 23, 1951 and placed on the Norton-Mable charge. Rev. Richard Gibson was the first appointed minister in 1952. The church was closed for a short period and reopened under the ministry of Rev. Don Lockhart when Phillips Chapel was placed on a charge with Otterbein United Methodist.

A 24x60 foot pavilion was built in 1984 with a barbecue pit. This is the site of the now famous Phillips Chapel Chicken Barbecue which is offered each June and September. The pavilion is a popular site for family reunions and other activities by the community and the church. In 1995 under the work and direction of Calvin Bennett a roof was put on the pavilion.

A major undertaking of this congregation was an addition to the church which has tripled the size of the church. The new two-floor addition was completed in 1995 and offers a large fellowship hall downstairs and large activity room and two new Sunday School classrooms upstairs. Also new restrooms were added to make the church more convenient. The women's organization is to be commended for the continued commitment to raising the funds for this project through the Chicken Barbecues.

Under the direction of Sandra Bennett, Phillips Chapel Church created a successful puppet ministry called the Sonshine Puppets which have grown in size to include the participation from Otterbein UMC. They have performed throughout the area and have reached out to McDowell County in March 2002, which was ravaged by the flood.

### Ministers who have served at Phillips Chapel UMC

Rev. Richard Gibson:	1952-1953	Rev. Mervin Cass:	1968-1969
Rev. Philipe Demuth:	1953-1954	Rev. Don Lockhart:	1970-1981
Rev. Marcus Trough:	1954-1956	Rev. Irvin Conner:	1981-1984
Rev. John Mollen, Jr.:	1956-1957	Rev. Timothy Bias:	1984-1988
Rev. Dale Childres:	1957-1958	Rev. Doyle Payne:	1988-1993
Rev. John Smith:	1958-1960	Rev. Harold Backus:	1993-1996
Rev. Robert Braden:	1960-1962	Rev. James Burdette:	1996-1999
Rev. Leroy Freeman:	1962-1963	Rev. Mike Evans:	1999-Sept. 2000
Rev. Dale W. Mosslander:	1963-1964	Rev. Arden Beck:	Sept. 2000-June 2001
Rev. Ira Adams:	1965-1966	Rev. Leon Hevener:	June 2001- 2007
Rev. Robert Vanglider:	1966-1968		

PINE GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GAP MILLS, WV

It takes more than a building to make a church, and the members of Pine Grove Methodist Church knows that. Their church has served the community since it was built during the summer months of 1906. The land on which the church was built was deeded to the trustees on March 12, 1906. The land was part of the Pine Grove schoolhouse lot and was deeded to the trustees for the sum of thirty dollars.

The following article appeared in the August 23, 1906 edition of the local county newspaper, The Monroe Watchman: The pretty new Pine Grove Methodist Church was dedicated last Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Joseph Wickline of Falling Springs, VA impressively preached the dedicatory sermon. A large congregation was present and enjoyed a most abundant dinner spread. The collection amounted to \$175.00, which will extinguish the debt.

Since the first minister, J.H Henderson, the church has had twenty-eight ministers. Our current pastor, Mark Smearman has served the church since 1996.

Although, the overall appearance of the church is still much like it was in 1906, there have been many improvements made over the years. The original wood stove has been replaced by a gas furnace and propane heaters. New pews were purchased, new carpeting, new windows, a paved parking lot and walkway and pew cushions to name a few of the additions added to the church.

On August 30, 1981 the church held a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and on August 27, 2006, we celebrated 100 years of service to our Lord at Pine Grove. Both services were similar to the original dedication with preaching, special speakers, good fellowship and dinner on the church grounds.

Over the last 100 years the church has been the site for many baptisms, funerals and weddings and still has members who are descendants of the original founders and members of the church.

Some of the older members can remember when the church was over full and extra chairs were brought in to seat everyone. Although our congregation is now small, we have members who are dedicated in serving the Lord and are praying our church attendance will grow.

History of  
The Pleasant Chapel United Methodist Church  
Of Adolph, WV

Before the Church was built, Worship services were held in the Adolph school house, which set on the parking lot of the present church property. During that time the Methodist and Presbyterian ministers from the Mill Creek and Huttonsville churches held services in the school.

A committee was formed and property was donated for the church by Mr. and Mrs. Lenard Zickefoose. Many of the Adolph community men helped to keep down the cost by donating their time. The Moore and Kepple Lumber Co. donated all the frame material for the church. The men that lived and worked in the woods from this community gave so much money which was deducted from their pay checks each month to help pay for the lumber. The cost of the church was \$2,400.00 and was built by Kinsey Zickefoose and Walter Simon and supervised by Rev. J. H. Arbogast and Rev. Steven Morgan. When the church was built a meeting was called of those who had been attending the services in the school house, both Methodist and Presbyterian, to vote on which denomination it would be. The Methodist had more votes.

The Church was dedicated on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1922. The committee that helped with the building of the church also planned the dedication, they were; Mr. and Mrs. Lenard Zickefoose, Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. Jared Cutright, and B. B. Hodge.

The first trustees were Lenard Zickefoose, Jared Cutright and B. B. Hodge.

The pews for the church were bought from a church that had closed in the Dry Fork District in Randolph County.

There have been things added to the church over the years. In 1967 a foundation was put under the church at the cost of \$500.00.

The deed to the church is recorded in the Randolph County Court House, Book number 120 page 183, in Elkins, WV.



## PLEASANT DALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The first church building was the old log church Pleasant Dale, built in 1877. There is not much recorded history about the Methodist Episcopal Church at Riffle. It is known that in 1898 the need for a church was felt in the Riffle Community. The original trustees were J.S. Sponaugle, H.H. Lewis, L.H. Shaver, W.E. Riffle and J.R. Palmer.

The church was built closer to the cemetery. On January 27, 1911 the trustees made a deed to the Coal and Coke Rail Road, which in turn were to purchase property to move the church onto. Jacob Riffle and wife deeded a lot to the Coal and Coke Rail Road where still stands today. The Rail Road built the Chappelle Siding where the church had stood.

As one survey the interior of the church, you will notice that much labor and love went into the planning. The sound is easily carried, because of the acoustics.

This church has always been a spiritual church, know for its shouting. In the early days, regular church services, brought more people than could be seated inside and people stood on the outside looking in the windows, listening to the preaching. There also were singing schools held regularly, by three Petrey brothers, Ivan, Ernest, and Demi and a Mr. Norman. People traveled for many miles to attend these singing schools from other churches and communities.

Through the dedication of a faithful few the Riffle church doors remain open, and welcome all to come. The Riffle United Methodist Church remains active with the Braxton Charge.



## History of Pleasant Hill U. M. Church

Information collected by Sue Loyd

Pleasant Hill church was built and dedicated in the year 1912. The land was given by French and Effie Bosley Singleton. French, being of Protestant faith, and Effie, being of Baptist faith, did not want the church to be of a specific denomination. They called the church Pleasant Hill and stated in the deed that the Baptist could use the church for worship when not being used by the Methodist .

They decided to build on top of the hill so Beech Fork Community as well as the people from the Salt Lick "Gem" side could attend. Part of the land would be in Otter District and part in the Salt Lick District. Most of the lumber used to construct the building was taken from the Singleton's land. The steeple was made by Tom Cutlip of Braxton. The altar and benches were built by Philmer Wilson.

It seems that O. E. Thorne was the first minister and several people attended. The register book was started in September of 1913. At times when there was no church, homecomings would be held there.

Sometime during 1975-1976, Rev. Marlin Bosley of Baptist faith, opened the church at Pleasant Hill with the assistance of Clarence Ramsey. A few months later, confusion among the people caused the church to close. The church was later reopened during 1976 on the Burnsville charge with Rev. Harold Duskey serving as minister. Several ministers served the church until about 1998, when it left the Burnsville charge as a independent church. Around the year 2000, the church voted to go on the Braxton Charge where it remains today.

Ahab Hacker provided the funds to drill a water well in the early 80's. During that time, when the treasury was low, he also replaced some broken windows. Propane gas replaced the wood and coal stove around 1997. A portico was constructed in 2004-2005 to cover the cement steps and ramp at the entrance. The floor was repaired in 2006 with the help of the Methodist Conference. Also during 2006, the old windows were replaced with new ones.

Special thanks to Jessie Singleton Maxwell, daughter of French and Effie, for providing history details up to the mid 1970's and to the many others who contributed information.

Even though the congregation is small with only 14 listed on the membership book, love, unity and the Holy Spirit dwells among the people. Presently, Rev. Alvie R. Loyd serves the church as minister three Sundays a month.



2006  
1963



2007

## *"Congregation and Story"*

The Reger Church has one of the oldest and most distinguished histories of any church in the entire area. In 1810, the first Methodist Society was formed by 10 people. That same year they built the first Reger Church. The land and the logs for it were donated by John and Elizabeth Reger. This early organization and church building at Reger Church in Teter, makes it the oldest appointment in the entire surrounding country. Methodism, in this part of the country had it's beginnings here. It was originally included in the Redstone Circuit, the Monogalehia Circuit, and the Clarksburg Circuit. At one time, it was part of Lewis County so it was in the Weston Circuit. Geographically, it is located in Barbour County, so now, part of the church records are located in Lewis, Barbour, and even Upshur Counties. Despite the fact it was located in Barbour County, it was placed later on the Buckhannon Circuit. Finally, now for several years it is on the Hodgesville Circuit.

In 1840, the second church was built. The first little church had served well for 30 years, but with the increased number of families attending, it was much too small. This church was built on a plot of land about one hundred yards east of the first church.

The third church was built in 1887 because of the need for a more modern building. It was a large, well built, comfortable frame building.

On February 4, 1906, the Reger Church burned to the ground. It is not known how or by whom, but the old preachers desk that had been in the church for so many years was saved. The church pews were also saved. They are still being used today. This devastating fire certainly didn't weaken the determination of the members to rebuild this House of God. They proceeded to build

at once. A beautiful new church was built, costing \$1400.00. The new Reger Church was dedicated in the late summer of 1906. This fourth church stands today, still in use and service to God.

In 1966, the attendance dropped greatly. At times there were only five people attending services. It became necessary to close the church with the understanding by the District Superintendent that the members would be given two years to reopen it.

In 1967, a fourteen year old boy, Verlin <sup>Mickie</sup> Moore moved from Michigan and began wanting to see the church reopen. He took it upon himself, to canvas the community asking folks if they would attend, if the church services started again. He received a good many affirmative answers. So in April 1968, we reopened and have still been holding forth since then.

The church that stands today, as well as the organization within it, symbolizes as a true cornerstone in the founding of the Methodist faith and all organized worship in the entire area. They are a constant and wonderful reminder of the struggles, heartaches, joys, determination, and underlying faith in God of the early founders and present beloved members of this beautiful little country church.

When I was just a toddler my parents moved into this area and became an active part in the church. My mother was secretary and treasurer for fourteen years. There were 10 children in my family and this is the church we grew up in, except for the short time the church was closed. I also moved away for a short time during my early years of marriage. I have attended Reger Church for 60 years. Through the ages, countless numbers of souls have been won for Christ.

It is our fervent prayer that the sacredness of this spot will always touch the lives of those who visit it and that it will continue to be a place of God's glorious service, until His return.

*Submitted by,  
Pauline Bates*

## **HISTORY OF RICHMOND CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Otterbein Church (United Brethren) was organized in 1841 by the German colony from Baltimore. For nine years after the organization, services were held at the private residences of George F. Gerwig, Daniel Engel, John Bender, Mathias Gerwig, Michael Smith, Christian Long, Jacob Cramer, John Wyatt, Jacob Rumach, John Miller, Conrad Leopard, and others.

In 1850, all joined and erected a neat, hewed, log church (28' x 36') with a seating capacity of 200. Reverend Daniel Engel was the pastor at the time of organization and continued in that capacity for 12 years.

The first church was located one mile below the German post office and was named in honor of the founder of the United Brethren church..

The settlers of the first few years were all United Brethren, except Christian Long, who was a Methodist Episcopal. Not many years elapsed until John Bender and his wife withdrew from the United Brethren Church and called the Reverend Billy Baxter, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to preach for them.

John Bender was instrumental in organizing the first Methodist congregation of what is now the Chapel community.

The Methodist Episcopal services were attended by the entire community until the Reverend Baxter was required to enforce a law of the churches, which forbade anyone to attend more than three services of the Methodist Episcopal Church, unless he became a member of the church he wished to attend. This unwise law was repealed some years later, and the people of the community were again permitted to worship together at all services.

Unfortunately, Brother Long and brother Bender died early in life and left the Methodist Church of Chapel community in the care of Ann Catherine Bender. Sister Bender was a strong, aggressive women, and her untiring efforts gathered around her the congregation, which in 1866 built the first Methodist Richmond Chapel Church near the Rock store. It was names in honor of Elder Richmond, an eminent churchman. It was the first frame building in the community, the lumber being whipsawed.

The congregation outgrew this church and in 1883, a second Richmond Chapel was built on the flat above the Bender residence. Unfortunately, this one was destroyed by a fire in the early part of 1913. In the autumn of 1913, the present Richmond Chapel was built and dedicated.

NOTE: In the summer of 1841, a Sunday School was organized and continued along with other religious services at the homes in the community. In 2000, the Church was

roofed, new carpet was installed, 2 Sunday School Rooms was built on the front, and a handicap ramp at the front. Central Heat/Air was installed, also. A bathroom was built and the Church was connected to city water in 2006.



## Rock Cave United Methodist Church

Talk about a Dollar well spent! On a crisp eleventh day of December in the year of 1869 Robert Curry sold a parcel of land for one dollar to the trustees in trust of the Centerville ME Church, now Rock Cave United Methodist. Little could he know that the church that was intended for the land would still be standing one hundred and thirty seven years later. What a wonderful impact this dollar spent has had on the countless parishioners that have entered into this sacred place of worship.

One of the trustees name at the making of the deed was B. Brake the Grandfather & Great Grandfather of two of our current members. Mildred Wilfong & her daughter Elaine Cool, both are active members of the church. Mrs. Wilfong teaches Sunday school & Elaine is a trustee. Mrs. Wilfong also played the piano for several years until she broke her wrist & was unable to play after that. We were without a pianist for a couple years. Last year Geneilla Queen Jeffers joined our church. She believes she is the last descendant of Robert Curry to belong to the Rock Cave ME Church. Geneilla belonged to the church as a young girl & played the piano for the church. She moved away after school as most of the young people in the 50's 60's 70's & 80's for work in other states. We are blessed to have Geneilla back in her home church playing the piano once again.

When reviewing the church records the membership averaged 100 people in attendance from the beginning of the church. In May 1949 Rev. Robert Robinson the pastor at the time revised the church membership records with 124 members registered. That appeared to be the average attendance until the late 50's membership started to decline 80's showed an average of 25 & 12 in the 90's Today we have 8 active & 13 inactive members.

Mrs. Wilfong related a story that when she was a young girl her Grandmother Mildred Harper stated that there were a hundred people in attendance for the dedication of the church. Mrs. Wilfong is in her mid 80's

In my search at the church for information I found a picture of an elderly gentleman who very well could have been the first pastor since there was no decimation on the photo no one could tell me. I also found a framed document from the State of WVa, signed by Governor M.M. Barron recognizing the church as a West Virginia Centennial Church.

In 1903 Arthur William Grove's name was listed as a member. He died in the 70's & left a trust to the church to be used for the upkeep of the church. The principal was not to be used only the interest. This graceful beauty has had a few face-lifts through the years, thanks to Mr. Groves an active member of the church. In 1981 an addition was added to the church. It consisted of Sunday school rooms, kitchen, restrooms, heating system, carpeting & beautiful stained glass windows. Within the last five years new windows were added to the addition & vinyl siding to the original structure. We are blessed to have a gifted craftsman Frank Cool as a member & willing to donate his time installing the windows & siding, another trustee of the church Roscoe Peck assisted him with the siding.

This old church on the hill has had some transformation through the years. Our prayer is that we as a small faithful congregation will see the sanctuary filled again. Our Community is growing and we are hopeful. Some of those who left several years ago for work are returning home after retirement.

This is what we at Rock Cave United Methodist Church call a dollar well spent, thanks to a gentleman who saw a need for a house of worship in this small community in southern Upshur County.

Samanna Peck,

Small Membership Church Project  
Wesleyan District/Frenchton Charge



### Brief History of the Salem Ridge Church

Prior to the established Salem Ridge Church at Gaines a log church was used for worship. The Buckhannon Conference was pushing the newly prosperous communities to house their congregations. The Log Church at Gaines was all but a ruin.

The leading families of the Village were: J. W. Morrison, Stillman Young, A. D. Long, V. W. Ervin, P. P. Hyre, plus others got together and decided to build a new Church on Salem Ridge at Gaines, since the ridge was more populated than the Village. With the help of virtually the whole community. The present church edifice was erected in 1893-1894, but the formal deed for the land was not completed until July 14, 1906.

Salem Church stood on the brow of the hill surrounded by its small churchyard, sealed inside a simple frame structure with a steeple pointing to the Heavens. Its furnishings were all hand-crafted. Generations of Parishioners were to suffer the straight-back benches and narrow seats that so well discouraged anyone from sleeping in Church. Many of the children growing up in the Church and moving away continued their membership throughout their lifetime.

In 1894, the year of Salem's founding, the Methodist Church had 44,402 members in West Virginia. Ten years later in 1904, Salem

Methodist Church was part of the Holly Grove Charge of the Buckhannon District. It had 43 members in its Sunday school. The largest attendance that year totaled 51 on May 22<sup>nd</sup> when the weather was fair. A collection of twenty cents was taken.

Salem Church played a central role in the private and public life of the community. Its services constituted a large part of the social and religious life of the people. Parents were seriously concerned about the salvation of their children. Families attended church together, only to separate at the front door, the men going to the pews on the right and the women going to the pews on the left, while the children scrambled for seats in the rear.

Salem has always had a tradition for spirited music. The church had a pump organ for accompaniment.

Many changes came with World War I, the Depression, and World War II. The communities also had a big change with the timber boom. Unfortunately the boom is gone now since the great forests have been cut. Next came the drainage of young people, out of the communities to Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. About the only jobs left in the area, was a day now and then working for a neighbor or a farmer. Several young people enlisted in the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps), and the P.W.A. (Public Works Department). Most of these programs were road

building.

In 1957, the leading families got together and decided to build a Community Building. The community, once again, demonstrated its traditional spirit of cooperation for the common good. A new community building was built and utilized by the Church when needed.

In 1950, Salem Church began to show need for some repairs. The windows were repaired, the interior and alter area remodeled, and a new hard-wood floor was installed. The Charge was reorganized and Salem was transferred to the Wilsontown Charge. In the 1970's, several new projects were put into action. All new furniture and carpeting was purchased and installed in the Church. In 1997 and 1998, several improvements were done to the Church. A new concrete porch was poured, new aluminum windows were installed, and a new ceiling was installed in the Church. In 2002, a new Speaker System was purchased along with a new sign that was erected in the front yard with the name of the Church and its current Pastor. The new sign comes on at dusk and goes off at dawn allowing travelers to quickly see the beautiful, white Church. The sign was built of stone from this area. In 2005 and 2006, new oak cabinets and a table was made by a Church member and donated anonymously.

The Salem Ridge Church Congregation thus demonstrates its commit-

ment to preserving its heritage while broadening its service to fit the needs of a larger and changed community. The minister continues to hold services twice monthly in the church, rotating an extra service among the five churches on the Charge. Salem Ridge's membership continues to grow. At the present, we have thirty some members. The same good spirit that existed in 1884 is still present today at the Salem Ridge Church.

Donald Long,  
Church Historian

## **The Story of Stealey United Methodist Church**

As the story is told by the elders of our church, our church founders met in the building, located on the lower end of the Stealey Community. As they grew in faith and number, the Methodist Conference identified a need for a church in Stealey Heights (April, 1915). This led to a flurry of activities - election of trustees, the naming of their existing church building as St. John's Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle, and the deeding of a lot on Milford Street for a new Church and the laying of a cornerstone for the new church.

On September 17, 1916, members of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle walked up Milford Street to the new church and held the first worship service in that church. From that time forward the church was known as Stealey Heights Methodist Episcopal Church. From this small group of 64 charter members, the church steadily grew. The Sunday school rooms were full of children and adults. In addition to an adult choir, there were choirs of children and youth. An acolyte program took off. The church's Ladies Aid Society became a strong force within the church. As our country experienced the Great Depression and dealt with two World Wars, many members of the church were called to active duty. During these times the church remained a center of community activity. When times were tough, the women of the church held numerous chicken pot pie and ham suppers, sold brooms and mincemeat, donuts, and a number of other things to help raise money to assist with paying off the church mortgage. The Ladies Aid Society later became Stealey's United Methodist Women.

In 1958 a lot adjacent to the church was purchased and a campaign to build an educational complex was launched. The progress & activity surrounding this initiative, was frequently noted in the Clarksburg newspaper. Also property on Milford Street was purchased as a parsonage. During the 50's and 60's the church was a buzz with activity. All the programs within the church flourished. However, changes began to occur within Clarksburg and all communities within the area. With the closure of numerous glass plants, the economy began a downward spiral. The young people who had grown up in the warm nurturing environment of the church, found fewer opportunities for employment within area. This led to the migration of Stealey's young people to areas where employment was possible. Over the next two decades the Stealey community saw a change in its demographics. Young people who had grown up at Stealey church did not buy property in Stealey. Instead they migrated toward Bridgeport, a new thriving and growing community, or to larger cities where they found work and began to raise their families. More properties in Stealey became rental properties, and the older homes became starter homes for young people who lived within the community for several years, and then relocated to the newer housing developments in Clarksburg and Bridgeport. During this time, the church saw more transient memberships (families that would be a part of our church family for three to five years and then they would relocate). Overall the church experienced a decline in membership, and especially a decline in number of young adults and children. However, the fellowship within the church remained strong. Bonds between older members grew stronger, as their children lived farther away and they began to rely more on each other for fellowship and socialization. The church continued to be a center for fellowship for many of the older members.

The changes within the Stealey community continue to be both a concern and a blessing. The families moving into Stealey are often "unchurched", and this affords us a wonderful opportunity

for outreach and evangelism. Our present membership, although an older population, has shown resilience over time, and an ability to respond to many needs within the community. We have operated the Stealey United Methodist Church Child Development Center the 1980's. This center is an outreach ministry providing a faith-based kindergarten, day-care and after school program for families from all over Clarksburg. This program is recognized in the community for its high quality care. At the present time, our United Methodist Women Society and its circles, the Sunday school classes and other activities are comprised of smaller numbers of people, allowing for more intimacy and deeper fellowship. Our men repair bicycles for needy children. We fill Christmas boxes and medicine boxes for war torn countries, support our missions, visit our shut-ins and provide Christmas for children whose parents are in prison. Members of our church volunteer throughout the community assisting programs that include Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, the Cancer Society, the Open Door, and the local mission.

As a church positioned right on one of the main routes through the city, our church has always been responsive to the low income, struggling families and individuals who often call or come to our doors asking for help. This small ministry has been sustained by the generosity of our members and has endured over time. Yes, when you come to Stealey Church you will see white hair, and "grandparent types", but love, generosity and kindness abound. Moreover, we have a sense of humor and love to have fun. Most recently we held our first "Soup Cook-Off. What fun we had! Sometimes, during morning worship and specifically during the "Passing of the Peace" we are boisterous and get carried away with chatter, but we pray with fervor when prayer requests come forth.

At Stealey, you do not get "lost in the shuffle" - you are known by name, you are missed when you are absent, and your contributions to the church are acknowledged, and truly needed. Stealey Church wants to continue to be a serving church within the Stealey Community. We believe there is still much good work that we can do, and every pair of new hands is welcomed.

## **Stone Coal United Methodist Church**

Old US Route 33  
Weston, WV 26452

It is said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. This is true of Stone Coal United Methodist Church. The church was first organized in 1834 by the Reverend John Clark and several members of the Jackson family. Now, 173 years later, several of the descendants of both families, sometimes by other surnames, are still part of the congregation.

The first church, built at the mouth of Joe's Run on Stone Coal, served the congregation until after the Civil War. The second church, started in 1859, stood without a roof until after the Civil War and served as a shelter for man and beast during that conflict. The building was box-like; it had two doors on the west side, one for men to enter, the other for women.

According to the *Weston World*, the present church was built in 1906 at the cost of \$2000. It was feared that the dedication could not be held as planned because the pews were late in arriving. However, they were installed just four days before the opening on a "raw day," 11 November 1906.

The dedication meal was held at the home of T. E. Hinzman and there was "enough food to feed two thousand."

Through the years the church has undergone several changes physically as well as in membership. Some of the time it has been a station church and sometimes, a charge church. Currently, Stone Coal is part of the Stone Coal Charge sharing its minister, Carolyn Nettles, with Horner United Methodist Church. Although our membership is over one hundred, our average attendance hovers at seventy-five.

More importantly, the Spirit that was present at worship services in the earliest days of the church continues to offer grace and solace to all who enter with an open heart. Sunday school and Sunday morning worship services are held regularly, even when lesser activities are canceled for weather related reasons. About a dozen women regularly participate in the United Methodist Women's organization which meets regularly the second Thursday of each month. A Bible Study group, calling themselves the 3-Gs (God's Golden Girls), meets every Wednesday morning in the church basement; and, together with the Horner United Methodist Church, some congregants attend a Wednesday night Bible study.

Music is an important part of the church's services. The church choir, composed of adults as well as some of the younger set, meets on Thursday evenings and offers special music during the Worship Service in the winter months. Individuals provide special music during the summer. Additionally, the Stone Coal Musicians, comprised of the church youth, provide vocal and instrumental music from time to time.

The Stone Coal congregation also reaches out in community service. The women of the church provide meals for bereaved families with connections to our church. Families reach out to

the needy not just in our apportionments but also with monthly donations of food and household products to "Our Neighbor" and with special offerings when needs arise.

In 1955-56, while the church was a station church, a parsonage was built for the minister. The parsonage, with renovations, has continued to serve the church – and now the charge – as the minister's home since that time. Presently (2007), our minister is the wife of Rev. Jonathan Nettles, pastor of St. Mathew United Methodist Church in Weston; they have chosen to live in the St. Mathew's parsonage and the Stone Coal Charge Parsonage is rented to a church member.

The sanctuary was redecorated and a basement was added in 1952. In 1976, additional parking space was added and carpet was installed in the sanctuary. The slate roof was replaced in 1984 and two years later ground was broken for an addition on the front. The addition, now used for worship and education, was completed in '86. In 1990, the front entrance was remodeled; a handicapped ramp was added; and insulation, new siding and windows, were installed. In 1993, the church was gifted with a new light oak pulpit and communion table. The altar railing and woodwork were refinished to match the new furniture. New light oak pews were also purchased to replace those pews that caused all the concern back in 1906. In 2005, the foundation was repaired and another addition was added to provide bathrooms on the sanctuary level and storage space in the basement.

Currently, the entire Stone Coal United Methodist Charge is working to acquire funds for major repairs to the foundation of our sixty-year-old parsonage. We know, with God's help, we can be successful in this endeavor.



STONEWALL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
604 COST AVENUE  
STONEWOOD, WV 26301  
HISTORIAN: RUBY E. CASTO  
JANUARY, 2007

The Stonewall United Methodist Church, formerly the Stonewall Park Methodist Church was founded in 1919 when Rev. J. H. Ramsey was the pastor of Vincent Chapel, Nutter Fort., WV. A Sunday School was organized first in April 1919 with B. F. Smith as the Superintendent.

In early January 1920 a revival was held and on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January a class of forty members was formed. These families were among the leading citizens of the community and gave prestige and stability to the new church.

Soon after a lot was secured and plans for a building was planned and the work began. Before the church building was completed Rev. Ramsey was transferred and the new pastor was Rev. L. W. Dick. The new church building was dedicated on June 20, 1920 by Dr. J. A. Selby, president of the conference. Being the only church in Stonewall Park it was greatly needed to provide religious welfare to the people.

This church continued to grow and more space was needed. In 1944 a major improvement was undertaken. The church was raised 32 inches and a basement was built under it. New pews were installed, the vestibule remodeled and a new roof was put on the building.

The Stonewall Church celebrated it's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1945.

The Stonewall Church became a station church in 1951. Two additional lots were purchased on the East side of the church. A five room bungalow type parsonage was built on the lot next to the church and the other lot was developed into parking space to provide off street parking.

In 1962 plans were made to build an educational building situated behind the parsonage. Due to the lack of funds only the outside structure and roof were completed at this time.

The Education-Fellowship building was completed and dedicated on January 28, 1968 by Dr. Frank L. Shaffer.

There have been many improvements over the years to both the church building, parsonage and fellowship hall. All three have had new furnaces and central air. A ramp has been built on the side of the church to make it handicapped accessible.

We have had continuous Bible Study on Wednesday's since June, 1980.

We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1995 and at that time we buried a time capsule to be opened on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church by Jimmy Davis and his son Zach.

We honored our members that were 80 years or older with a "Celebration Tea" on May, 18, 2002

We honored the Veterans of our church on May 3, 2003.

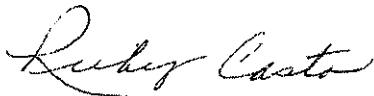
We held our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church in 2005 with Rev. S. L. Green, Rev. Chris Duckworth and Rev. Larry Crawford being the speakers.

We hosted the Clarksburg Parish picnic in 2005.

We have supported several mission projects during the year such as flood buckets, undie Sunday, Souper Bowl Sunday, Katrina, booth festival, Ronald McDonald house in Morgantown, Scotts Run Settlement House and the local Clarksburg Mission.

The following ministers have served the Stonewall Church since 1920. J. H. Ramsey, L. W. Dick, Paul P. Holden, Lloyd E. Weaver, Ralph McCoy (twice), Henry McCulty, J. J. Phillips, Perry N. Null, Alfred E. Bennett, Benjamin M. Mitchell, Ralph T. McCord, H. D. Sloan, H. E.

Gillespie, Kelvin L. McCray, Lawrence W. Loudin, Sidney T. Davis, Bill D. Brown, John F. Bennett, Donald G. Spurlock, Harvey J. Mitchell, Paul Vineyard, James B. Arbogast, Eldon H. Cuppett, Ernest D. Metheny, James Elliott, Sylvester L. Green, Richard Keener, Robert Cole, Augustus Monu, Chris Duckworth & Larry Crawford

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruby Casto". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ruby Casto  
Church Historian

## **TENNERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY**

### **BUCKHANNON, UPSHUR COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

In the early 1920's, Tennerton was a small community of twenty people or less. There was no church in the community. Since there was no bridge across the Buckhannon River, the people crossed the river by boat and walked to the Mt. Hope Church until the present church was completed in 1923.

In the fall of 1922, a public meeting was held to make plans to build a church in the Tennerton community. There were a majority of Methodists attending that meeting, therefore it was decided that the church should be Methodist Episcopal.

On January 15, 1923, a deed for two lots was presented to the trustees of the new Tennerton Methodist Episcopal Church. The new church was built on these lots.

On August 19, 1923, the first worship was held in the new church with 54 people in attendance.

In the early summer of 1935 members and friends of the church joined together to build a new church basement.

At the Annual conference of June 1961, the Buckhannon circuit was divided. The Tennerton and Mt. Hope churches were separated from the Pleasant Dale (now closed) and Hampton churches. Mt. Washington Church would later be added to the charge.

In 1962, a committee was appointed to make plans for an educational building. Construction was started in the fall of 1963 and was completed in the spring of 1964. Vinyl siding was installed on the exterior of the church in 1982.

With increased attendance came the need for a larger parking area. A decision was made to buy out the Mt. Hope church interest in the parsonage located next to the Tennerton Church. In January of 1983 the purchase was made. Following the removal of the building in 1984, the parking lot was ready for use. Sidewalks and lights were added soon after. Paving was completed in the fall of 1993.

The choir, having long been a valued part of the church, continued to grow. In April 1986, the administrative board voted to add on to the front of the church to make room for a new choir area. The project was completed in late summer 1986. The sanctuary was air conditioned in 1994.

All these projects were completed through the love and generosity of members and friends of the church of the past 84 years

The church, established in the community of Tennerton, still is meeting the needs of that community. The church hosts many functions within the community. Besides the worship services and other ministries of the church, the local Lions club and Garden club meet there on a regular basis. Additionally class reunions, Little League, and others meet on an occasional basis at the church. The Tennerton United Methodist is still serving God by meeting the needs of the community, 84 years after its inception.



### Troy United Methodist Church

In 1860 a church was established and known as The Troy United Brethren Church. The first pastor was Rev. R. Moore. The Church was first located on the point across the road from the present location. The land was purchased from Henry and Mary Heckert for \$10.00. When the site was changed in 1935, the Church was moved to where it now stands. Land was purchased from Mrs. Lillie Bush-Ware for \$50.00. The pastor at this time was Rev. W. A. Lydick.

In 1949 a full basement was begun. Later a drilled well, electric pump, stove, kitchen cabinets, curtains, 100 folding chairs, room dividers and a nursery were added. Other improvements have been done throughout the years, two furnaces, new carpet, stained glass windows, hardwood floors. In 1989 a ramp for wheelchairs was added, and most recently central air conditioning and bench cushions.

Mrs. E. A. Crites organized the first youth group in 1917. In 1986 Mrs. Ruby Butcher started a recreation program for the youth. In 1989 Eleanor Holtz started a new UMYF.

Mrs. Betty L. Crab  
119 W. Hwy. 18  
Troy, WV 26443

## History of the Upper Ellis Methodist Church

By W. J. Radcliff 1955

The origin and history of the Upper Ellis Methodist Church is one of interest and most unusual. It is interesting to know why it became the present denomination a Methodist Church rather than any other, why it was built on the present site, the destruction of the first church and the struggle to build the second and third church. To date there has been three churches and a total of thirty ministers.

Rev. W. H. Burns now a retired minister living in Pennsylvania served the longest time as minister. He served seven years and was the only minister to return to the church the second time after having served other churches.

There was no church in the Upper Ellis community until the year 1885. Rev. Joe Vincent a Methodist Protestant minister and Rev. Salathe a United Brethren minister held a revival meeting in the Upper Ellis school house, a log building at the forks of the road on Big Ellis Creek just below the site of the present church. At the conclusion of the revival meeting it was decided by the two ministers that they would try to organize a church and would give the people of the community an opportunity to vote for the denomination they would prefer. More people desired the Methodist Protestant Church, therefore Rev. Joe Vincent remained as the first Methodist Protestant minister and plans were made to build the first church in the Upper Ellis community. Rev. Vincent delivered his sermons in the log school house until the church building was completed in 1886. Then the congregation moved to the church on the present site now used. The first church faced down the creek. Rev. Vincent has been dead about eleven years.

Some of the leading people in building the first church were Samuel Keller, Wesley Radcliff, Henry Radcliff, Tip Sprouse, Abraham Radcliff, Abraham Wiant and W. H. Radcliff. J. K. Davis a Baptist living in the community gave a lot of free work on the church. Colonel Conrad gave a nice donation in cash to apply on the building of the church even though he did not live in the community. Porter L. Loudin did most of the carpenter work. Samuel Keller, Henry Radcliff and W. H. Radcliff were the trustees of the first church. The site for the church was granted by Colonel Conrad and Henry Radcliff and his wife Elizabeth.

During the year of 1897 there was a controversy over three young men and the community with reference to their age, voting and being permitted to attend the Upper Ellis school. All three of the young men wanted to vote and it was decided that only one of them was old enough, therefore the other two were denied that right. When the school term begun the two individuals who were not permitted to vote on account of their age were permitted to enter the school and the third individual was not permitted to enter school, because he was twenty one years of age. It is rumored that this individual and a close relative angered by his denial to attend school burned the school house. In order not to disturb the school term the school was moved to the church to continue classes and that night the church was burned, supposedly by the same people that had burned the school house.

To go a little farther with the story, which does not concern the church but is of interest, the school was then moved to a vacant house near by. A constant watch was kept over the building night and day for two weeks by residents of the community. One morning at the break of day the two guards on watch left for their homes. After traveling for some distance they looked back and the house was burning. The guards went directly to the home of the individuals thought to be burning the buildings and two members of the family were gone so early in the morning but returned a short time later. However there was not sufficient evidence to convict them and no legal action was ever taken.

The first church was destroyed by fire in 1897 and the second one a frame building was not completed until 1898. It was a financial struggle for the residents of the community because their only source of income was their farm products. Rev. Elick Doyle was the minister of the church at that time and N. E. Wiant was the teacher of the school during the period of the burning.

Lloyd Rinehart took a contract to build the second church. John Henline and Max Henline were the carpenters. The trustees of the church at the time of the building the second church were Samuel Keller, W. H. Radoliff and Henry Radoliff. This church was insured by W. H. Radoliff with a company represented by A. E. Mendenhall. It was dedicated in 1898 by Rev. W. H. Hart who later became the pastor.

The second church stood until August 1946, at which time the board consisting of Gail Lowther, Croner Helmick and W. J. Radcliff entered into an agreement with Roy Hiney and Russell Hiney to dismantle the old church and erect the present church building. The present church building was dedicated Sept. 13, 1947 by Rev. Young who lived in Weston. Rev. Earl Debar was the minister at the time of the building and the dedication of the church. He was very helpful and worked quite a lot in the construction of the church. On the day of dedication we liked \$600.00 of having enough to meet all outstanding bills. Gail Lowther and W. J. Radoliff stood for the unpaid bills so the church could be dedicated. The following day we went to the Kanawha Union Bank in Glenville and borrowed the \$600.00 and paid all unpaid bills. The church paid the Kanawha Union Bank in less than one year. We only had to pay 2% interest. The trustees at the time we were building the third church were Gail Lowther, Effie Toney and W. J. Radoliff.

The following ministers have served the three churches. Rev. Joe L. Vincent, 2 years, Rev. Harris 2 years, Rev. Mart Ireland 2 years, Rev. Smith 2 years, Rev. John Reese 2 years, Rev. Elick Doyle 4 years, Rev. Carder 1 year, Rev. A. S. Kelly 3 years, Rev. O. P. McNeil 1 year, Rev. A. I. Goode 2 years, Rev. A. L. Tremble 3 years, Rev. Worthy Morris 1 year, Rev. W. H. Hart 2 years, Rev. W. H. Burns 5 years, Rev. A. L. Harvey 1 year, Rev. J. A. Richmond 2 years, Rev. A. L. Nestor 3 years, Rev. Paul Ray 1 year, Rev. J. H. Lough 2 years, Rev. W. H. Burns 2 years, Rev. Z. B. Bowen 6 years, Rev. Thomas Spiker 3 years, Rev. J. S. Sarver 2 years, Rev. L. J. Loneyford 1 year, Rev. Otis Linger 1 year, Rev. C. J. Allendar 2 years, Rev. Earl Debar 5 years, Rev. Ralph McCoy 2 years, Rev. Marvin Burns 2 1/2 years, and Rev. Kenneth Kruskshank 1 1/2 years.

After writing the history of the Upper Ellis Methodist church in 1955 the following ministers have served the third church. This is June 1979. Rev. Paul Conley 3 years, Rev. Hayward Price 1 year, Rev. Billie Helmick 4 years, Rev. P. R. Armentrout 2 years, Rev. Eugene Kerby 3 years, Rev. Albert Skinner 3 years, Rev. James Furman 1 year, Rev. Imeldia Long 3 years, and Rev. Robert L. Jones served our church from June 1973 to Nov. 29, 1977 at the time of his death. We were without a minister until June 1978 and at that time Rev. Ricky Miller was assigned to the Troy Charge as our minister. He served through Dec. 1978 and he left the charge. Again we were without minister until June 1979. At that time Rev. Lawson Whipkey became our minister.

From the time the first church was built until May 10, 1939 our church was known as the Upper Ellis Methodist Protestant Church. May 10, 1939 the Methodist Protestant Church, The Northern Methodist Church and the Southern Methodist Church united and became the Methodist Church. April 23, 1968 in Dallas Texas the Methodist Church and the United Evangelical Church were united and now we are known as the United Methodist Church. The Methodist Protestant was first organized in 1828.

Rev. Lawson Whipkey	June 1979	June 1982
Rev. Edward Perrine	June 1982	June 1984
Rev. David Dora	June 1984	June 1987
Rev. Thaxter Mullins	June 1987	June 1992
Rev. Ronald Brown	June 1992	Jan. 1996
Rev. Doug Smailie	Jan. 1996	June 20, 1996
Rev. Scott Singleton	June 20, 1996	June 1999

REV ALAN NEAL JUNE 1999 -

## THE VALLEY BEND METHODIST CHURCH

Records are not available giving the date when Methodists started preaching in the homes and school houses at Valley Bend. The Methodist Church located near the southeast corner of the Homestead settlement was built in 1911. Dr. C. G. Stater, the pastor writes: "I preached in Beverly, Mill Creek, Snyder's Church, Stalnakers's School House and a little church out from Beverly, Daniel's Chapel, I think."

"I held a funeral at Valley Bend and some women asked if I would preach there if they built a church. Before my train left for Beverly, they had a lot and seven hundred dollars was pledged."

"Church School services and preaching were held in the school building. The church was almost finished and the pews were ordered when Conference time arrived (fall 1911) and to my surprise, I was sent to Sixth Street Church, Charleston. I never preached in the church."

Dr. Stater, L. L. D., later served First Churches in Moundsville, Fairmont, Clarksburg and Huntington. He was a poet, preacher, lecturer, historian, dramatist and authority on antiques.

Dr. F. S. Townsend, superintendent of the Roncevert District, refers to Valley Bend October 11, 1911: "At Valley Bend on the lapsed Mingo Circuit, work has been revived in connection with Beverly, and a new church worth \$1600, will be dedicated soon." He wrote in 1912, "The new church at Valley Bend on the Beverly Circuit has been finished but not dedicated." In 1913 he reported: Valley Bend has been dedicated during the year or before the fall of 1913. E. C. Bedford was the pastor and the salary for the circuit was \$850.

The church lot was given by George W. Phares and his wife, Columbia M. Phares. On August 25, 1911 the deed was made to the following trustees: W. J. Long, H. B. Phares, R. L. Pritt, W. W. McElwee and Marion Yokum.

Rev. Clarence Knapp of Baltimore, a graduate of W. Va. Wesleyan and Drew, was a member of Valley Bend Church and William Cox is studying for the ministry.

Before entering the ministry, Rev. S. C. Dotson, was a Nicholas County Superintendent of schools, teacher, mayor of Richwood, member of the legislature and newspaper editor.

Rev. W. T. W. Sleeth had a son, Chas. R. Sleeth, who was a Rhodes scholar.

The pastors of the Beverly Circuit of which Valley Bend was a part all of the time to 1939 (except 1937-39 when Frank A. Johnson, Durbin Charge, was pastor); C. G. Stater, 1909-11; E. C. Bedford, 1911-15; P. L. Bent, 1915-19; S. C. Dotson, 1919-24, W. T. W. Sleeth, 1924-25; A. F. Shomo (and A. L. Marple first year) 1925-28; O. E. Elkins, 1928-33; L. C. Harris, 1933-35; A. J. Renick, 1935-38, C. E. Hawkins, 1938-40.

The Valley Bend pastors since 1939-40; J. L. Marquess, 1940-46; Hugh Ashby, 1946-47; Mamie Keplinger, 1947-53; L. R. Mason, Jr., 1953-56; H. R. Miller, 1956-57 (He left before the end of the year and Rev. Art Carter came before Conference.). Art Carter, 1958-59; J. A. Earl came June 10, 1959.

The Methodist Church has 102 members and the salary this year including travel is \$1400.

History of  
The Valley Chapel United Methodist Church  
Huttonsville, WV

The Valley Chapel United Methodist Church was built in 1909 on a plot of ground donated by James and Melissa Clevenger. The lot borders on the Becky's Creek Road near the banks of the Tygart River.

The Church was built from donations of lumber, labor and money from the small community in which it sets. The lumber was obtained by the different families in the community giving logs to be sawed. They were taken to four different saw mills in the surrounding community.

Harley and Kent Evans sawed part of the logs into lumber at their mill on Rofe Run. They also donated enough lumber for three seats.

The Bell-Knapp saw mill located at the old Ed Wamsley farm, which is now part of the Catholic Center, sawed some of the lumber also.

Some of the logs were hauled by horse and wagon to Dasher's Mill at Mill Cree by Chum Tacy and Harry Cum. The lumber returned in the same manner. Jesse McGee, one of the members rode on the wagons as a small child.

Mart Rosencrance donated and sawed enough lumber for the remainder of the seats at this mill on Becca's Creek. They were made of chestnut, the other three were sycamore.

Mr. James Clevenger hired a carpenter from Elkins to supervise the work. George Earnest and his brother, who lived at the head of Becca's Creek, were the other two carpenters. Mr. Matt Kimble boarded the carpenters while they worked for free.

The church was dedicated in 1910 by Rev. Cam Goodwin.

Mrs. Melissa Clevenger donated the Organ for the Church at this time. It was then replaced by Sallie Hanger donating the organ that belonged to her mother, Ada Hanger, who was Mr. and Mrs. Clevenger's daughter. This Organ is still in the Church.

The piano was purchased from the community in 1960.

The heat was from a large Burnside stove, using coal for many years until it was replaced by an oil heating system.

The seats have since been replaced by pews donated from the Beverly U. M. Church. The old ones were taken to the farm on the Tyrand Parish and a few to the Edward Chapel U. M. Church.

The Becky's Creek Women's Circle put a new concrete block foundation under the complete building. They also bought the oil heating system, new windows, a new floor and metal roof. Most of this work was donated in the 1960's by Presion labor.

Jesse McGee built the front entrance and steps. Over the years a dropped ceiling, new lights, carpet, and many other items have been added.

On September the 1<sup>st</sup> of 1990 we dedicated a new addition to the church, a fellowship hall and kitchen.



## **Historical Sketch of Wayside United Methodist Church**

A Sunday school was organized in the Poe Run community, two miles east of Elkins, on Easter Sunday, 1948, with ten people present, under the leadership of Rev. Troy R. Brady, pastor of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Elkins. A one week revival service was held the following August with twenty-five decisions for Christ, after which the Evangelical United Brethren Class was formed with a membership of thirty-six. Plans were made immediately for the building of a church and the name "Wayside" was chosen.

The new class was made a part of the Elkins Charge at the annual conference of 1948 and Alfred Beard, a student at Davis and Elkins College, was engaged as assistant to Rev. Brady. He faithfully served the rural points of the Elkins Charge until June, 1949. After his death, Rev. H. L. Koontz and Rev. Robert Cunningham held services under the supervision of Rev. Brady. Rev. John Springer and Rev. Melvin George assisted in revival services.

In April 1949, the lot for the new church building was purchased for \$500.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Canfield, and construction began immediately. The first service was held in the new building on Monday, April 24, 1950. There were, at that time, fifty-nine members of the church with an average Sunday school attendance of seventy.

The first group of trustees was: Ernest Canfield, Claude Smith, Charles Poling, Mrs. Irvin Isner and Mrs. James Isner. In September, 1951, Rev. Dale Stalnaker became pastor of the church. His wife organized a youth choir with approximately fifteen members. Under the leadership of Rev. Stalnaker, construction of two Sunday school rooms adjoining the church was started. Most of the labor on the building has been donated by members and friends of the church. The actual cost of the building was around \$2,500.00.

On February 3, 1952, the funeral services for Russell R. Isner were held from the church with the Rev. Troy Brady, assisted by Rev. Stalnaker and Rev. Koontz officiating. This was the first funeral service held in the church.

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1953, a dedication was held at the church in which the new Sunday Church School Unit was dedicated by Dr. T. L. Miles, Conference Superintendent, assisted by Rev. H. L. Koontz and Dale Stalnaker, pastor of the church. Trustees present were Mr. Roy Kelly, Mr. Ernest Canfield and Mr. Gerald Cooper. There were about 50 in attendance. After business sessions were over a basket dinner was held on the church lawn. These rooms that were dedicated consisted of two class rooms and furnace room. A coal furnace has been installed with a blower.

In December of 1953, the Western Maryland gave to the church a bell which was placed in the bell tower of the church. Also, during that month the congregation purchased 50 new church hymnals.

In August, 1954, Rev. Stalnaker resigned from the Elkins charge to enter the United Theological Seminary at Dayton, Ohio. Bell Angel was appointed pastorate of the Elkins Charge. This was his first church after coming into the ministry.

In September, 1954, the construction of a vestibule to the church was started. It was completed in April 1955, with the hanging of an aluminum storm door. The approximate cost was \$300.00. Labor and some material were donated.

A revival meeting was held in April 1953, with Bill Angel bringing all the messages but two, which were brought by Rev. G. W. Simpson and Rev. Bland Brady. There were 19 decisions for Christ.

During the month of June 1955, Mr. Roy Kelly bought and installed screens for the church windows.

In August 1955, Bill Angel was returned to the church by the conference for another year.

On October 9, 1955, at Sully, WV, an official board and congregational meeting was held to set up a program for the building of a parsonage. As no definite location could be agreed upon, it was put aside and the pastor's salary was increased.

In November, 1955, a new gas heating system was installed by Cupp's at a cost of \$561.36. The coal furnace was sold for the price of \$125.00.